FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MAY 1987

Attack on U.S. Diplomats in Egypt

U.S. Embassy attache Dennis Williams and security official John Hucky were wounded when gunmen opened fire on their vehicle in the Cairo suburb of Al-Ma'adi 26 May, AFP reported. A third American escaped injury in the shooting, which occurred when the three men were on their way to the Embassy.

An anonymous caller told an international news agency that "Egypt's Revolution Group" was responsible for the attack, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Condolences on Stark — In a 23 May message cited by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent "most deeply felt" condolences to President Reagan on the occasion of the funeral ceremony for victims of the "unintentional incident" involving the U.S. frigate *Stark*. Husayn said Iraq must continue its efforts to stop the "bloody human tragedy" that, through its "confusion and complexity," has caused the deaths of people from other countries who were in the area "for various reasons."

Iran on Stark, Security — Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a Friday congregation that the attack on the *Stark* was not accidental, Tehran radio reported. He claimed that one possible motive for the attack was that the Soviet Union ordered Iraq to attack the U.S. ship. Another possibility was that Iraq was acting in concert with the United States and Saudi Arabia to attack Iranian shipping by night, but Iranian officials received "advance warning of this conspiracy" and carried out a "move" which resulted in the Iraqi missile hitting the U.S. vessel.

On Gulf security, an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA said the Gulf states should avoid fanning the flames of war and instead consider their own interests. The spokesman expressed "surprise" at a recent warning by the Kuwaiti amir on the spread of the war, saying that Kuwait itself is responsible for heightening tension in the Gulf. The spokesman was reacting to a 22 May address cited by KUNA in which the Kuwaiti amir said the Gulf war now touches the superpowers and threatens international navigation.

Syria on Stark Scenario — Syria's *Tishrin* said the *Stark* incident was part of a "well-prepared scenario" to achieve "remote objectives," SANA reported. The paper said two of the objectives were to "absolve" Iraq of the charge of being an agent of the United States and to provide a pretext for the United States to bring its forces into the Gulf, adding that the question of why the frigate's warning systems failed to save it cannot be answered unless it is assumed the scenario was drawn up in advance through "joint cooperation between the two sides."

War Reports — A military spokesman "ridiculed" Iranian claims that a battle was fought recently in the Iraqi border city of Rawanduz, INA reported. The spokesman said Rawanduz and areas even closer to the border are enjoying a "normal life" under the protection of the Iraqi armed forces. His statement followed a 22 May Tehran radio report that Iraqi Kurds had captured Rawanduz after several days of heavy fighting. Arab and foreign correspondents were subsequently invited to the area and saw for themselves that the situation there is normal, INA reported. In other action, Iraqi planes chemically bombed three villages near Kirkuk, wounding 35 people, according to IRNA. Other IRNA reports stated that Kurdish rebels captured eight Iraqi military bases near Khurmal 23 May, and Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi industrial installations and military centers around Basra in further retaliation for Iraq's 20 May raid on an industrial unit in Ahvaz.

Israel

Security Situation — A Jewish resident was shot dead in the Gaza Strip 25 May, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the IDF imposed a curfew in the area. An anonymous caller told AFP that the PLO's Force 17 was responsible for the killing, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The shooting followed incidents the previous day in which an Israeli was wounded in a knife attack and another Israeli fled from an angry crowd after his vehicle killed an Arab boy in a traffic accident, Jerusalem radio noted. A "major riot" also erupted in East Jerusalem 23 May, the radio reported.

Nafsu Case — Senior legal sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post* said the attorney general has now "no choice" but to initiate a criminal investigation of the Shin Bet officers who interrogated former IDF Lieutenant 'Izzat Nafsu, who was released from jail 24 May following a Supreme Court decision overturning convictions of treason, espionage, and transfer of military equipment to the enemy. The state attorney admitted during the hearing that the Shin Bet had used illegal interrogation methods against Nafsu and that its agents had lied about these methods to military courts.

Lebanon

Abrogation of Cairo Agreement — The Chamber of Deputies 21 May decison to cancel the 1969 Cairo Agreement was condemned as "illegal and unacceptable" in an official PLO statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio 23 May. The PLO nevertheless expressed readiness to negotiate with the "legitimate" Lebanese authorities in order to achieve a joint understanding on the entire situation. However, "high-level" Lebanese sources cited by Kuwait's *Al-Qabas* stated that the "legitimate Lebanese authority" has no intention of negotiating a new agreement with the PLO but seeks instead to take over responsibility for administering the affairs of the refugee camps on its territory. Among other comment, Amal Movement leader

Nabih Birri said the Palestinians are responsible for the cancellation of the Cairo Agreement through having kindled the camps war, according to Voice of National Resistance radio. In contrast, Algiers radio broadcast Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt's statement that the cancellation of the agreement is "very dangerous" for the Palestinians in Lebanon, adding that the decision was taken by an "illegal" parliament and is part of the ongoing "Israeli-Phalangist conspiracy."

Security, Terrorism — An Iranian Embassy statement cited by IRNA blamed "the Zionist regime and its agents" for a 24 May bomb attack on an Iranian Embassy vehicle in Tyre that day. An Iranian official in the car escaped unhurt, but his driver was killed and three pedestrians were wounded.

In another development, the Voice of Lebanon reported further threats against France and Italy by Lebanese-based terrorist organizations. One group threatened a "very hot summer" in France if the latter does not release George Ibrahim 'Abdallah and other convicted terrorists, while another organization warned that it will strike inside Italy if two named prisoners are not released. Meanwhile, DPA carried reports on a visit to Tehran and Beirut by an FRG envoy seeking the release of two FRG nationals kidnapped in Lebanon. The envoy reportedly met with Iranian officials and with Lebanese Hizballah official 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, brother of two Lebanese imprisoned in the FRG.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed renewed concern about the state of the economy in remarks to officials broadcast by Tripoli television 23 May, warning that the industrial base is in danger of "collapse" unless corrective measures are taken. The Libyan leader called for a new plan to reorganize industry into three sectors along lines similar to those specified in his 26 March speech. Heavy industry should remain publicly owned and under the control of the appropriate secretariats, medium industries should be "collectively owned" outside the framework of the secretariats, and light industries should be partnerships. Al-Qadhdhafi also acknowledged the failure of his previous policy of import substitution, asserting that Libya must henceforth import cheaper foreign goods in order to save money for investment in areas like desalination plants, energy and irrigation projects, the development of pastureland, and the promotion of tourism. He also chided officials for failing to carry out proposals for educational reform which he made in a 7 April speech.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi-Jordanian Talks — Saudi King Fahd received Jordanian King Husayn in Mecca 24 May during the latter's visit to perform the minor pilgrimage, SPA reported. Amman radio said the talks dealt with current efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and heal Arab differences prior to holding an Arab summit conference.

Algerian-Moroccan POW Exchange — A 25 May exchange of POWs was reported by Algiers radio, which noted that Algeria released 150 Moroccan soldiers captured during past border incidents, while Morocco reciprocated by handing over 102 Algerian prisoners.

Iraqi-Syrian Relations — A "highly-placed" Arab source cited by Paris *Al-Mustaqbal* asserted that the Iraqi and Syrian presidents met in the Al-Jufur area of Jordan at the beginning of May, adding that they agreed to continue meetings between officials of both sides.

DRA-Pakistan

Dhaka radio cited reports from Islamabad that DRA aircraft launched further raids on Pakistani border areas 24 May, killing several people and wounding dozens.

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Najibullah Discusses Primary Party Organizations

LD232300 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part this afternoon in a broad explanatory session on the subjects of the results of the party sessions during Hamal 1366 [21 March-20 April], which were held in all the primary party organizations, by presenting a [words indistinct] under the title "Primary Party Organizations, the Foundation of the PDPA." He described the importance of holding these sessions in general as a new step toward the revolutionary movement of the country.

A *Bakhtar* correspondent reports that the session was attended by comrade members of the Politburo, members of secretariats, members of the PDPA Central Committee, vice chairmen of Council of Ministers, ministers, workers in the PDPA Central Committee apparatus, and secretaries of the primary party organizations of Kabul.

Comrade Najib answered in detail the questions raised by the delegations, as well as explaining other spheres of party life, international issues, and the role of primary party organizations and all party members concerning the fulfilment of their duties.

Defense Minister's Speech on National Reconciliation

LD212057 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 May 87

[Speech by DRA Defense Minister Mohammad Rafi in which he answers questions raised at party meetings held throughout the country in the month 21 March-20 April 1987 — live or recorded]

[Text] Sisters, brothers, dear compatriots, and esteemed friends, In accordance with a decision of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, extraordinary sessions were held in the period 21 March to 20 April in Army primary party organizations and in all primary party organizations with a specific agenda — the achievement of national reconciliation and the subsequent duties for the strengthening of party ranks. These sessions, which aroused special interest in the party, were held with enthusiasm and high organizational [words indistinct].

At these sessions the full and candidate members of the party expressed their support for the policy of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government, clearly and openly spoke about the (?transformations) and problems not yet resolved, and criticized the present defects and shortcomings in the accomplishment of duties assigned to the Army by the extraordinary Central Committee plenum held in the month of Jadi [22 December-20 January].

At these extraordinary party sessions over 11,000 questions, suggestions, and criticisms were presented to the PDPA Central Committee, the Council of Ministers and the DRA Defense Ministry. Comrades Najib, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, and Ziray answered some of these questions in their radio and television speeches. I will raise the issues which are relevant to the (?life) and status of the Army and its role in the implementation of the national reconciliation:

Question: The first and fundamental question is this: Why, irrespective of the proclamation of a unilateral cease-fire, are Army units and companies continuing their combat activities?

Answer: In reply to the question raised I would like to mention the following points:

In perceiving the formidable responsibility for the destiny of the persecuted people of Afghanistan, the PDPA regards it as a vital necessity and as the PDPA's historic mission to struggle to achieve lasting peace in the historic land of Afghanistan. In following this line the PDPA Central Committee announced the policy of national reconciliation at its extraordinary plenum and, as you know, on 15 January 1987 a unilateral cease-fire began. Combat activities were discontinued; in accordance with the requirements of peacetime, units returned to their areas and permanent bases. They limited their activities to safeguarding the state borders and important economic projects, providing security for the movement of convoys and other defensive and economic duties. All the country's cities remained uncontrolled by government organs and were open to all the country's subjects.

In response to our peaceful activities [words indistinct] the cities, villages, Army units, and air transport, the transportation and deployment of weapons and ammunition in the DRA, terrorist activities, and conspiracies by the opposition forces were (?increased).

The ideals of the national reconciliaiton were supported by the overwhelming majority of Afghans.

Most counterrevolutionary bands, expressing support for the national reconciliation policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government regarding the cessation of bloodshed, came over to the revolutionary government. Over 100 armed groups ended the war and fratricide. However, a large number of counterrevolutionary bands who are being funded by U.S. money and dispatched by Pakistan into DRA territory, instead of undertaking reciprocal and peaceful actions, continued their persistent combat activities against the DRA Armed Forces and, in reply to the unilateral cease-fire by the government, they increased armed attacks on garrisons, military projects, cities, villages, and hamlets.

Since 15 January more than 2,000 shooting incidents have taken place. As a result every day the brave soldiers of the DRA and nonmilitary inhabitants are being martyred.

An aerial war has been unleashed against transport helicopters by the counterrevolutionary elements, in which mostly nonmilitary inhabitants, including women and children, are becoming targets. For example, as announced earlier, two airplanes, one civilian and the other a military transport airplane, were shot down over Khowst district, as a result of which more than 70 of our compatriots were martyred.

On 27 April, when the inhabitants of Mazar-e Sharif city left their homes to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the glorious April Revolution, they were fired on. As a result of this savage

and inhumane conspiracy over 20 people were martyred or injured. That, and the martyrdom of 13 toiling, noble, and heroic workers of the Spinqar construction enterprise of the Ministry of Electrical Energy, are clear examples of the barbaric and inhumane actions of imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism.

I would like to recall the statements by Comrade Najib delivered at the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. He said:

We do not lay down arms for the purpose of [words indistinct] bloodshed and fratricide. Those who continue the shooting will receive the reply, and the reply will be a satisfactory one.

The DRA Armed Forces, who are fully responsible for safeguarding their homeland, must be kept in constant combat readiness.

The units and companies of the DRA, in this difficult and complicated period, are acting in complete conformity with the announced principles of national reconciliation and unilateral cease-fire. We are obliged to continue embarking on combat activities only against those who do not observe the cease-fire conditions.

In the period since 15 January, DRA Army units have inflicted blows, including the first blows, on counterrevolutionary bands in Khowst district, Paktia Province, and in Paktika and Qandahar, as well as on arms caches which are still being supplied and which represent a serious danger to the revolution.

On the other hand, other armed groups who have observed the cease-fire, who have come over to the revolutionary (?authority), and who seriously observe the principles of reconciliation have not been fired upon. In the future, while the cease-fire is in force, we will seriously observe the instructions of the party and the DRA Government, that is, we will welcome those who, with goodwill and a pure heart, come to us. However, in no way will we submit to provocations. We will answer fire with fire, as required by the defense of the revolution, maintaining security and [word indistinct] of the homeland.

Question: [Words indistinct] were questions that what measures will be taken after the elapse of the cease-fire (period)? And will the combat operations be resumed in the event of disagreement by the opposition to cease fire?

Answer: As it was stated in the announcement of the DRA Revolutionary Council concerning national reconciliation in Afghanistan, the cease-fire will continue for 6 months, that is, to 14 July. If the cease-fire is observed by both sides, then it [words indistinct] will be prolonged until a national accord is reached. On the contrary, we are defending our revolution and our homeland. It is therefore obvious that the large units and companies of the Army should enhance their combat capability and be (?ready) for combat operations for the purpose of reciprocal blows at the enemy.

Question: Why is conscription in the Army continuing under the conditions of national reconciliation?

Answer: If we did not have an effective Army, long ago internal and external reaction would have stifled our revolution and our state, that is, the DRA would have been eliminated. The policy of national reconciliation does not mean we have achieved peace and the end of war. (?Some) bands of the counterrevolutionaries did not observe the cease-fire. [Words indistinct] the United States and Pakistan intensively instigate war against our revolutionary state. Our enemies are trying to (?undermine) the combat capability of our forces and distort their essence. Therefore, they disseminate hostile propaganda in order to convince our people that in the conditions of national reconciliation it is not necessary. The Army's combat capability should be raised and the [words indistinct] should be brought to strength. It is clear to every sound-minded human-being that as long as the military (?threat) exists, we should be constantly capable of rebuffing and repulsing the new designs of the enemies of revolution and the defense of the homeland.

Our enemies consistently organize their (?forces). Also, it should be noted that in the course of the national reconciliation policy, the process of discharging those troops and Army NCO'S whose term of service in the Army has been completed, has not been halted. Our fighters should not let their place go empty in the ranks. Therefore, the defense of the homeland with arms in hand and service in the Army is the sacred duty and patriotic task of every DRA citizen.

On the other hand the new law has been applied concerning conscription in the military. In accordance with the articles of this law, those persons are recruited to serve in the Army who are 18 or over and have completed their term of legal period of deference from the services. People who volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces could be less than 18 or over the the legal age. The volunteers enjoy special privileges, for example, they are paid more and [words indistinct].

A conscription and call-up commissariat have been created for the purpose of conscription and call up to service under the flag, which includes, in addition to the staff of the military commissariat, the party, local organizations, and state representatives as well as the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the DYOA committees, the Islamic Affairs Ministry and [word indistinct].

Question: A number of questions are concerned with the [words indistinct] of service in the Army and explanations are demanded concerning the rank promotions of the staff and the military conscription.

Answer: A precise and legal answer has been provided to all these questions. The terms of service in the Army for troops, NCO's (?is 2 years) in the DRA. Those persons with higher education with (first degree) are bound for 18 months service. Those with doctorate qualifications serve for 1 year. The date of service in the Army of every DRA citizen, is counted in the period of their work (?in the state department). In accordance with the articles of the General Conscription Law, deferment from service in the Army is awarded to the following people:

1. Those who are sick and under medical treatment, until their (?recovery);

2. Pupils in the general education, medium and vocational, technical schools and [words indistinct] until the completion of education, provided [words indistinct] they are not over 20 years;
3. The students of higher education establishments, until the end of their education, provided the age of the student is not more than 20 years for conscription, and those in the reserve forces, not more than 29 years;
4. Those who are breadwinners for their parents who are 60 years old or over, and who do not have any legal guardian. Such persons are exempted from the service;
5. A brother who is the provider for parents stated in the first and second categories and who do not have any other legal guardian, is exempt from the service until the discharge of his brother from the service in the Army;
6. All returnees from abroad of Army service age, for 6 months from the date of their return to the homeland.

The following persons are exempt from service in the Army: The head of a family, who is provider No 1 and No 2 of the [words indistinct] and does not have another provider. Those sick persons whose illness legally prevents them from serving in the Army. The (?only breadwinner) for [words indistinct] parents. The religious ulema who are carrying out practical Islamic duties in the theology schools. This depends on certification by the relevant organs. I would like to clarify once again that only the secretaries of conscription and call up [as heard] decide on [words indistinct] on deferment or (?exemption) from service in the Army.

Some party members have criticized the election of some staff of the military commissariats, who [words indistinct] in an illegal way have granted deferment from Army service due to family relationships and personal comradeship. Yes, unfortunately such defects exist and this matter is unacceptable and intolerable. The law is enforceable on all. At the moment, we seriously demand that the aspects of law should be observed. The unclean and corrupt individuals should be purged. Also those who take bribes, will be brought to (?law).

Why do the sons of the party and state leaders enjoy privileges and carry out their military service in civilian uniform? Why do they travel to their work in the service in their relations automobiles?

If such facts exist, their (?occurrence) is due to the lack of discipline of the relevant unit commanders. The laws and norms of military service are the same for all. We take measures on our side and no one should benefit from [words indistinct].

Question: In addition to professional staff of the organs of the Central Committee, party organizations and the state organs who have not completed service in the Armed Forces should be recruited. Otherwise, their reputation and credibility among the people and the party members will be tarnished.

Answer: This question is completely correct. The Central Committee will specifically look into this matter.

Question: What measures are being taken toward the consolidation of borders with Pakistan and Iran?

Answer: This question is very (?broad). As I have stated, the enemies have opened fire hundreds of times at the border units and posts with artillery from the [words indistinct] of December 1986 to January 1987. They have also attacked border posts dozens of times and [words indistinct] in order to occupy them. The presence of armed [word indistinct] and the equipping of bands by Pakistan is continuing. The state and party is taking military measures in order to defend the borders. A part of [words indistinct] has been given to border battalions for the purpose of consolidating the border. However, the most important matter is the enhancement of the level of responsibility of the personnel of the border forces toward defending the (?homeland), the enhancement and strengthening of their combat readiness, and the strengthening of relations with the local people and joining efforts with local forces. The borders of our homeland are open for those who make peace with us, for the returnee refugees, honest traders, nomads, and the Muslims who are visiting places of worship here. However, we will meet the enemies of the people and homeland with fire. We will close the paths of war and open the paths of peace.

Question: There are a number of questions concerning the living conditions of the staff.

Answer: In reply to such questions, I would like to point out that the PDPA and the DRA, notwithstanding the economic problems of the country under the conditions of a long and [words indistinct] war, pay constant attention to the improvement of the life of the personnel of the Armed Forces. Work has been carried out in the large units and companies of the Army to improve the living conditions of the forces. In order to accomplish this task, the DRA state has allocated many resources. More than 250 million afghani were spent in this way during 1986-87.

During 1986-87 alone, some 15 dormatories, 20 dining rooms, a large number of kitchens, bathrooms, and health centers were provided. A large majority of personnel sleep on bunk beds. They have matresses, sheets, pillows, and blankets.

A resolution approved by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo concerning changes in the system of payments and other priviliges of the Armed Forces staff [words indistinct] dated 19 April 1987 has been a fresh example of the attention of the party and state concerning the Armed Forces. In accordance with the resolution, the salary of troops are due to increase, from 27 April 1987 for combat units, and from 23 August 1987 for noncombat units. The scale of their salaries has been approved as follows:

The salaries of troops serving in noncombat unit who are in their 1st year of service in the Armed Forces until [words indistinct], whose salaries were 200 afghani, will be raised to 1,000 afghani per month; those in combat units, to 1,500 afghani per month; and those in assault units to 2,000 afghani per month. During the 2d year of Army service, another 1,000 afghani will be added to their payment. The [words indistinct] who were paid 700 afghani per month, will be now paid as follows: in non-combat units, 1,400 afghani per month; in combat units, 1,900 afghani; and in assault units, 2,400 afghani.

Another 1,000 afghani will be added to the payment during the 2d year of service. The salaries of reservist troops and NCOs will

also be increased in the noncombat units from 23 August, as well as in combat units. This increase for [words indistinct] the reservists in their 1st year, will be 750 -- up to 1,750; for second year reservists, 500 -- up to 1,500 afghani; and for reservist unit NCOs, for the first year of service 950 -- up to 1,550; and for the second year of service, 700 -- up to 1,200 afghani per month.

Salaries for students of military eduction (?during) their studies have been increased by 900 -- up to 1,300 afghani per month. At present, a 1st year student receives 1,000 afghani; a 2d year student receives 1,280 afghani; and a 3d year student receives 1,500 afghani per month. The salaries of students of [words indistinct] educational and training courses, officers, school NCOs will be increased by 200 to 1,000 afghani per month from 23 June.

Additional salary increases have been approved for those persons who work in difficult conditions. For example, an additional salary for officers of border forces constitute some 30 to 50 percent of the salaries they receive for their grades. Additional monthly payments for flight personnel have been also increased in accordance with their [words indistinct] for the first, second, and third, respectively from 1,500 to 2,500 afghani per month; also for (?logistic) personnel this increase has been considerable. An increase in the daily payment for troops and officers who are engaged in combat activities has been considered of between 30 and 100 afghani at the time of operations. The moral encouragement of those who display themselves in combat is being enhanced. In the course of the last year and the current year, more than 1,500 personnel of the Armed Forces, among them more than 500 men and NCOs, were honored with receiving badges and medals of the DRA.

Due to their capability in combat, and due to rendering sincere service in defending the aspirations of the April Revolution, some 1050 NCOs were raised to military ranks during 1986-87, and 80 officers received extraordinary promotions. Only those are rewarded who truly deserve it. It should be pointed out, however, that there are a number of personnel who deserve to be rewarded, but who have enjoyed their rewards due to bureaucracy and [words indistinct]. We will unconditionally remove this defect.

The needs of Army personnel from the viewpoint of food, furniture, and winter and summer uniforms have been maintained by the state. The daily ration for personnel was increased some time ago. At present every man receives daily 900 grams bread, 250 grams meat, 220 grams rice, 200 grams fruit, and 300 grams of potatoes and vegetables. In addition those who are ill and wounded receive 250 grams of milk and 25 grams of butter.

Question: A number of questions have been asked by members of party organizations and local [word indistinct]. In particular, these questions cover the maintaining of tribal brigades from the payments viuewpoint, and [words indistinct].

Answer: The [word indistinct] bill concerning DRA local forces is being assessed. In accordance with the bill, a military uniform has been envisaged for the personnel of tribal units. The bill has been proposed to the Council of Ministers for (?approval). Whatever depends on the (?feeding) of the local forces has been under consideration and is being implemented. The officers and men of the local forces are maintained with food in line with the norm of the DRA Armed Forces as deemed necessary. Wherever it is not possible to feed them, they are paid 900 afghani per month; officers, 4,500 to 6,500 afghani per month over their grade.

A large number of officers pointed out during party meetings that their living conditions should be improved toward [words indistinct]. It was proposed that [words indistinct] should be built for officers. This is presently being discussed by the Council of Ministers and will [words indistinct] be positively solved. In turn, the DRA Defense Ministry is taking necessary measures to improve the living conditions of officers. Under the current conditions of the process of the policy of national reconciliation, during the last 4 months, 36 families of officers, and 12 families of (?troops) have received houses in Qandahar Province. Some 64 houses have been built at Shindand garrison and are ready for distribution. Two residential blocks will be utilized in the near future. As a whole, more than (?3,300) officers have obtained houses in Kabul city and other garrisons from the beginning of the April Revolution to date.

The DRA Defense Ministry will acquire 1,500 land plots, of which 500 plots have been allocated for (?homeless) officers [words indistinct] using the Ministry's own resources. The other 1,000 plots [words indistinct].

At present, much attention has been given to the military garrisons from the viewpoint of supplying electric power and water. Centers for water supply are to be constructed. For example, in Bagram garrison [words indistinct] there has been installed 19 water pumps and 10 power generators.

In the party sessions, there was criticism about the organization and proper transport of the personnel to the new localities of service, as well as when they are on attachment or off duty. It must be mentioned that they are justified.

Still, due to careless planning and improper utilization of aerial (?transport) by the Logistics Department and the Air Force, a number of personnel members are being massed in airports and spending a long time waiting for transportation. At the moment, this issue is seriously under consideration and will be solved.

In order to improve the system of supplying the officers, NCOs and men from the viewpoint of industrial commodities and foodstuffs, the system of [words indistinct] trade is taking place in the garrisons, together with the expansion of [words indistinct] network where the basic commodities are being sold.

It is envisaged that among 500 shops, 105 will be be opened and utilizied in Sonbula 66 [beginning 22 August 87].

It is necessary to point out in a specific manner about taking care of injured, disabled, and families of the martyrs. Many questions were raised in the sessions on this subject.

The undeclared war that has been (?imposed) by the counterrevolutionary forces and reaction with the active support of international imperialism, headed by the United States, has been continuing for the last (?8 years).

The war is a calamity for thousands of injured and disabled persons. As a result of this war, thousands of women became widows and children became orphans. Tears are still being shed in most families. However, all resources are being used to assist them. The party, government, and the DRA Defense Ministry are doing their best not to forget any of the families who suffer pain caused by the enemy. To the families of the martyrs, the injured, and the disabled who were members of the Army, over 3 million afghanis were paid only as a differential salary.

In accordance with the joint resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the Council of Ministers, amendments have been passed on the salary system and othe privileges of the Armed Forces' personnel, troops, and NCOs, (?who because of) illness, injury, or disability, are being registered on reserve lists. It is envisaged that each will be paid the sum of 1,000 afghanis from 1 Asad 66 [22 July 87].

In accordance with this resolution of the party and government, the government must provide residential houses to all the families of the martyrs of the revolution who do not possess residences. The party sessions have also made reference to this issue.

Due to the fact that a large number of houses have been destroyed or burned by the counterrevolutionaries, and that the construction of new houses is going ahead slowly due to the insufficiency of construction material, at the moment the ability to provide all families of the martyrs with residences is not feasible.

Only in Kabul city have 256 families of martyrs and the disabled have succeeded in acquiring residential homes from the government. Moreover, 1 million afghanis worth of goods in assistance from the friendly country — Soviet Union — have been distributed to the families of the martyrs in Kabul city.

This April the PDPA Central Committee Politburo considered the (?process) of the implementation of the joint resolution of the Central Committee Politburo and the Council of Ministers about measures to improve the living conditions of the disabled, injured, and the families of the martyrs of the revolution path. The Politburo pointed to serious defects concerning this issue and took specific measures for their eradication.

Amendments and [words indistinct] will be made in the Law on Privileges of the injured, disabled, and the survivors of the martyrs of the revolution path and its respective regulations for the purpose of distributing the rights and privileges of the disabled, the inured, and other survivors. Moreover, the duties of the government organs and respective institutions about meeting the needs of these people have been determined.

It has been decided that the construction work of the center for rehabilitation and treatment of the disabled be accelerated and relevant cadres for this center be trained and appointed. Instructions have been issued to the respective organs of the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of State Security, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to prepare as soon as possible the papers on the disabled, injured, and families of the martyrs of the revolution path. The Executive Committee of the people's representatives of Kabul city, is commissioned to prepare specific norms for the allocation of homes for the above subjects. The ministries and institutions must take ncessary measures for assisting the disabled and their families in providing them work and education and outside the country.

At present, the issue of creating the union of Afghanistan traders is under consideration as well as the possibility of creating collectives for the disabled for engaging them in suitable work.

The Central Committee Politburo has commissioned the party committees and the executive committees of the people's representatives [words indistinct] to solve the issue of providing the survivors of the martyrs of the April Revolution with houses and plots for the construction of homes in consideration of their privileges.

Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on 23 April of the current year, met a group of Kabul city's disabled on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the April Revolution. Meanwhile, the sum of 5,000 afghanis was given to each of them. As a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA minister of defense, I can assure all the disabled that they are at the center of attention of the party and government [words indistinct].

Another group of questions concern the Army's role in the distribution of aid among the inhabitants.

Under the present circumstance of the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, the aid of the Soviet Union for Afghanistan includes hundreds of thousands of tons of foodstuffs, medicine, and industrial and agricultural production. In the distribution of material assistance, the Army also has an active role. Over 230 propaganda groups in the units and large companies and working in close contact with party, government, and local organs as well as with extraordinary commissions. Not only do they pass truth about the policy of national reconciliation to the people, but also distribute material and medical assistance to deserving persons.

During the period after the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy and the unilateral cease-fire, the Army units have distributed over 5,000 tons of goods from the free aid stocks. Over 1,000 tons of wheat, 110 tons of sugar, 73 tons of cooking oil, over 100,000 bars of soap, 17,000 pairs of shoes, (?23,000) meters of fabric, 6,000 pieces of clothing and blankets, 32 tons kerosene, matches, chemical fertilizer, agricultural tools, and so on went to 45,009 families.

Medical treatment was given to 42,800 persons by the physicians of the propaganda groups. Unfortunately, some of this aid has not been distributed to the deserving and has been sold in the city shops. The party members and [words indistinct] seriously criticized this incorrect phenomenon. We hope that such illegitimate acts do not happen again.

Taking this opportunity, I invite all the people of villages and hamlets to contact the Army propaganda groups — and the representatives of the organs of state and party power are included in the composition of these groups — in order to enlighten themselves about all questions of national reconcili-

ation and political and military issues in the country and in the region. They will distribute to you agricultural [words indistinct] and foodstuffs on a free-of-charge basis.

The propaganda groups bring to you peace, [words indistict] and material assistance. This is the actual implementation of the national reconciliation policy by the party and government, and a genuine step for the realization of the national reconciliation policy.

Question: A number of the party members raised questions about the consolidation of the party ranks.

Answer: In reply I give the following answer: The Army is and will be (?relying) on the party. The party members are and will be in the Army for the confident defense of the FDPA Central Committee. [as heard] One great objective — defense of the homeland and sacrifice for the freedom and independence of the country — is mobilizing them. We will resolutely struggle against any violations of unity, irrespective of positions taken.

In conclusion, I would like to say that [words indistinct] the spirit of being active, interest, and personal responsibility have created a spirit in every party member to solve the tasks for the consolidation of the Army and its role for the realization of the national reconciliation.

The people can rely on their defenders and Army. We have trained the [words indistinct] heroes of the DRA. The first combat units of the heroes have been created and they were honored by receiving a commemorative banner. Our strength is continuously increasing. The strenght of the Army is in the people and the people's strength is in the army.

Esteemed compatriots, I wish you good health and great success and prosperity. Thank you for your attention.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG-21

BK241558 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 May 87

[Ext] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down a Soviet MiG-21 aircraft which was strafing their stronghold in Parvan Province. The strafing followed an attack by the mujahidin on KHAD [Afghan State Information Services] Headquarters in Charikar in which five Khad agents were killed. The mujahidin also destroyed a Soviet-Kabul military outpost near Charikar and captured seven soldiers.

In another operation, the mujahidin attacked the (Dogh) subdivisional headquarters in Laghman valley and forced 40 Kabul regime soldiers to surrender.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Begins 4-Day Visit

BK221308 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr I.A. Rogachev has arrived in Dhaka on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. He will have talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny on bilateral and international issues.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, Mr Rogachev expressed the hope that his talks with Bangladesh leaders would help further strengthen the bilateral ties. He said Bangladesh occupies an important position in Asia and has a voice of its own in international affairs. The Soviet minister is likely to meet President Ershad and some cabinet ministers.

Talks Begin 23 May

BK231308 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Official talks between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union began in Dhaka today. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields while they discussed entire gamut of bilateral ties. Bangladesh Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny led the Bangladesh side at the talks, while the visiting Soviet deputy minister for foreign relations, I.A. Rogachev, led his country's delegation. The two sides discussed the [words indistinct] signing of an air service agreement and the shipping agreement between the two countries. Both sides also stressed the need for an early conclusion of the two agreements and agreed to take steps toward that direction.

The issue of Soviet assistance for the construction of a bridge on the River Rupsa also came up for discussion, and it was agreed that technical level meeting would be held at the early dates to discuss the details of the project.

Trade relations between the two countries were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction over the existing trade between the two countries. The Bangladesh side stressed the need for inclusion of nontraditional items in the trade, and the Soviet side agreed to consider this.

Meets With President, Departs

BK251604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan today. Mr Rogachev assured the president that the Soviet Union will continue to extend cooperation for the economic development of Bangladesh. The Soviet minister also apprised the president of Mr Gorbachev's proposals for world peace and elimination of nuclear weapons.

President Ershad expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries will continue to improve.

Mr Rogachev left Dhaka this afternoon at the end of his 4-day visit.

Youth Group Concerned Over Anti-Muslim Indian Riots

BK250158 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] In Dhaka, the Jatiya Jubo Sanghati [National Youth Association] has expressed deep concern at the outbreak of communal riots in Meerut and part of Old Delhi in India.

In a joint statement yesterday president and general secretary of the Jatiya Juva Sanghati said unfortunately the riots have broken out in the holy month of Ramadan when the Muslims were devoted to fasting. They urged the Indian Government to take effective measures to halt the bloody riots and provide adequate compensation to the affected Muslims.

Textile Minister on Minorities

BK260253 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Leaders of various religious and social-political organizations in Bangladesh have expressed their grave concern over the continued communal violence in some parts of India. In statements the leaders yesterday called upon the Indian authorities to restore peace and security of minorities at the earliest. They also said Bangladesh has set up an example of communal harmony where people from all religions, particularly the minorities, have been performing their rites and rituals most freely and peacefully.

The textile minister, Mr Sunil Gupta, who is also the leader of the minority community, said there is no scope for any communal dispute in Bangladesh because majority population of the country are highly religious and uphold the spirit of protecting the religious interests of the minorities. Referring to communal violence in Meerut, Delhi, and Gujarat, Mr Gupta said communalism has been a chronic problem for India. It is a failure on the part of Indian majority to protect the life and property of their minorities.

The leaders of Christian and Buddhist communities also expressed similar sentinents by issuing separate statements on the riots in India.

Gandhi Issues New 'Six' Appeal on Disarmament

BK221557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 22 May 87

[Message by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on nuclear disarmament — recorded]

[Text] This day 3 years ago the leaders of six nations spanning five continents of the globe came together in a unique initiative for nuclear disarmament. The international situation at that time was causing serious anxiety. Arms control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union had broken down; their relations were marked by deep mistrust and suspicion. It was important to find new ways to break the deadlock. It was then that the leaders of Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania, and India issued the first declaration of the 6-nation initiative.

Today the movement has lost two of its outstanding founders — Indira Gandhi and Olof Palme. Both fell to the bullets of assassins. But their wisdom and bearing will remain an inspiration to us. Our duty is to go beyond the narrow confines of immediate interests to embrace the vision of a safe and more humane world. We rededicate ourselves on this day to realizing the objective of a world without nuclear weapons. All six of us are issuing a new appeal on behalf of the world people. I shall now read it out:

Three years ago, on May 22, 1984, we demanded that humanity's survival should not be jeopardized by the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Today we make an appeal not to jeopardize the opportunity to start a process of nuclear disarmament. Since our first appeal we have welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space issues. At the Geneva summit in November 1985, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev declared that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. At Reykjavik, there was clear demonstration that given political will, far-reaching agreements on nuclear disarmament measures could be achieved. Disarmament negotiations are now at a crucial point. There is a real possibility for an agreement in at least one important area. A breakthrough on the issue of nuclear arms in Europe appeals to be within reach. An agreement to eliminate all intermediate nuclear forces from Europe would be of considerable significance and would constitute the crossing of an important psychological threshhold, since for the first time it would lead to mutual withdrawal and destruction of fully operational nuclear weapons system. We, therefore, urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct their current negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion during 1987. However, an agreement on intermediate nuclear forces would only be the first step toward our common goal — the total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere.

In the Delhi and Mexico declarations we had called for two important measures — halting of all nuclear testing and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We reiterate the crucial importance of these measures. In Mexico we made a concrete offer on verification of a halt to nuclear testing. That offer remains.

For too long fear and mistrust have prevented progress in disarmament. Arms and fears feed on each other. Now is the time to break this victious circle and lay the foundation for a more secure world. The present momentum should not be lost. We urge President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to live up to this challenge so that future generations are spared this nightmare of a nuclear holocaust. Thank you.

Gandhi Addresses Congress Rally on 16 May

BK260927 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English
17 May 87 p 1

[Text] *The Times of India* News Service

New Delhi, May 16.

The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today declared that his government was answerable "only to the people and Parliament, and not to any individual."

Addressing a massive Congress rally at the Boat Club here, Mr Gandhi made an apparent reference to the controversy over the relations between the President and the Prime Minister. He said his government had sent a detailed reply to "those who had raised questions regarding non-fulfilment of constitutional requirements.

"But no reply has been received from them so far," he added. The Prime Minister said attempts to subvert the constitution or weaken the democratically elected government would not be allowed to succeed at any cost, and called upon the people to isolate the forces of destabilisation.

Mr Gandhi asserted that the constitution of India had worked well over the last 36 years and that he had not deviated from the constitutional procedures in keeping with the conventions followed by Pandit Nehru and Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Pointing out that similar constitutional controversies had cropped up in Pakistan. Mr Gandhi warned: "We should not forget that Pakistan has not seen democracy since then."

The 45-minute speech, punctuated by frequent thunderous applause, covered issues such as the imposition of President's rule in Punjab, progress made under the 20-point programme, supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan and corruption in high places.

The rally was organised by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) which estimated that over 400,000 people participated in it. Congress circles said the largest contingent was from Uttar Pradesh whose chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, shared the huge party flag-covered podium with the Prime Minister.

The others present on the stage were Mr Motilal Vora, Madhya Pradesh chief minister, the Union minister for food and supplies, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, and the DPCC president, Mrs Tajdar Babar.

Dealing with charges of corruption in high places, Mr Gandhi said wild and baseless allegations were being levelled against the government. There seemed to be a nexus between certain internal

and external forces to destabilise the country. "The people must isolate these forces and should not fall into their trap."

On the issue of alleged kickbacks in defence deals and the Fairfax probe, he said his government would not spare anybody found guilty "however high or well-placed friend he might be."

Mr Gandhi said for the first time a high-level commission comprising two sitting judges of the supreme court had been set up to inquire into the hiring of Fairfax to probe into the economic offences of some industrialists and others. He pointed out that the Swedish government was looking into the Bofors issue and as soon as these reports were available, "we will show the people that no one is beyond the reach of the law."

The government, however, had no evidence so far, the Prime Minister said, adding: "Some joker says misleading things and we fall into his trap."

Mr Gandhi said: "Those who needed certificates for honesty and fair play from some foreigner, they can join their mentors abroad."

He recalled how the country had suffered in the past because of traitors and said the time had come now to identify "Mir Jafars and Jaichands".

Explaining the necessity to impose President's rule in Punjab, the Prime Minister said terrorist activities had gone up in the state. To make it worse, some ministers had started denigrating the police.

Mr Gandhi refuted the charge that the government was not serious in curbing extremism in Punjab. He said: "Naram dastane mein ek lohe ka hath hai. Aur Kabhi dastane ke sath grip nahin milti to dastane utarna padta hai." (There is an iron hand in a velvet glove. And when the grip is not well with the glove, it had to be removed). He declared that he would never allow the creation of "Khalistan" on Indian soil.

Regarding nuclear non-proliferation, Mr Gandhi said on the one hand pressure was being brought on India to sign the NPT [nuclear nonproliferation treaty] and on the other Pakistan was being given massive financial assistance which would help its nuclear programe.

Mr Gandhi said Pakistan was being supplied with sophisticated arms like the AWACS to put pressure on India. But it would be given a befitting reply if Pakistan tried to play mischief with India. "Aisa jawab denge jo unke maa baap bante hain unko nani yad aajayegi." (We will give such a reply that the mentors of Pakistan will remember their maternal grand-mother.)

He also announced that the government was considering setting up a national commission for the welfare of the landless labourers and peasants. He said the government had done a lot for the poor, but some sections had not received the benefit of the various schemes under the 20-point plan. "The landless poor and farm hands are among them," he added.

Further on Rally Speech

BK261108 Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 9

[Text] May 16 — The country was passing through an "Agni Pariksha", an ordeal by fire, and attempts were being made to finish democracy and denigrate and bypass Parliament, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said today while addressing a massive rally at the Boat Club lawns in New Delhi. The Prime Minister warned that he would take "any steps, however stern, to protect the country and Parliament." The people, he said, had given him a massive mandate two-and-a-half years ago, and he would shoulder that responsibility. "The battle is on, and I will fight this battle," he said from behind a high dais with bullet-proof glass on both sides.

The 45-minute speech by the Prime Minister referred to the controversies surrounding the hiring of Fairfax, a U.S. detective agency, and the defence deals, including the one with Bofors.

Without naming Mr V.P. Singh, the former Defence Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in a very obvious reference to him, said that some people for their own selfish reasons and to further themselves were supporting foreign powers. Such people were "traitors" he said and reminded the people that India had been ruled by the British only because some Indians actively cooperated with them and had been ready to sell their country for personal gain.

Attempts were being made to weaken the confidence of the people in the leadership. All kinds of rumours and stories were being circulated without any basis or evidence, he added. He also said, amid applause, that if any evidence was placed before him he would have that investigated and no matter who was found guilty, "even if that person had friends among the highest," he would show that no one was above the law.

The Prime Minister said that for 40 years India had been consolidating her independence and had become a strong nation through its independent foreign policy, its policy of self-sufficiency in defence and through its economic policies which had carefully avoided the debt trap. There were some powers which were interested in a weak India and some internal forces were supporting these powers in their atempt at destabilizing India, finishing democracy and imposing dictatorship.

He said that we should not forget what happened in Pakistan. The authority of Parliament was questioned and democracy was the victim. In India, he said, he would not allow the forces of destruction to gala [as published] the upperhand. "I am in the forefront of the battle, I am not going to leave the battlefield and I will shoulder this responsibility", he said. He added he would not allow anyone to sell the country's honour.

Without naming the Fairfax chief, Mr Michael Hershman, he said it was a shame for the country that "some foreign joker says something, talks some nonsense and we get tangled in it". He warned that the British ruled India and had enslaved the nation only with the active cooperation of men like Mir Jafar and Raja Jaichand. These men had tried to sell the country for their personal gain, and today were trying to give support to foreigners

and use any means to destroy the people's confidence in the leadership in this country.

He said foreigners could not teach us the way to run our country. "I do not need a certificate from a foreigner (videshi, firangi), those who want such certificates can go abrad and get them," he added.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi referred to the recent imposition of president's rule in Punjab and said there was a movement in Punjab aimed at breaking India. The terrorists were being trained outside the country's boundaries and were being made to weaken the police force in Punjab and "we could not allow that to happen". Amid cheers he said there was no question of a Khalistan being created on Indian soil.

Several times in his speech the Prime Minister referred to the policy of non-alignment of Jawahar Lal Nehru, the independent foreign policy of Indira Gandhi and pointed out that again and again forces had tried to swerve India from this path. "We have taken a firm position on the issue of apartheid in South Africa. India has been fighting the cause of the poor not only of this country but of the poor and the oppressed of the world, and it is for this reason that there were powers which did not want a strong India." However, he declared that under his leadership India would not give in to an pressure.

India had faced serious threats before. Nehru had come under attack for his non-alignment policy and today that movement had grown and was a force to reckon with in international politics. In 1975-76, Indira Gandhi had come under severe attack and today his leadership was under attack, he said. Each time the country had been able to fight these attacks successfully.

The Prime Minister said that certain questions had been raised and some wanted his answers to them. "I am not answerable to any one person, but only to the people and to Parliament," he said.

The Prime Minister claimed that in the two-and-a-half years under his leadership, the number of people in India below the poverty line had come down from 50 percent to 25 percent. He intended, he said, to set up a national commission to look into the problems of the landless, who were among the poorest sections of society. He proposed to cover them under a life insurance scheme, which would be paid by the government. He also intended to give more powers to the Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste Commissioners. Efforts would be made to extend the public distribution system to all towns and villages with population of 2,000 or more. He pointed out that in spite of four difficult and erratic monsoons, the food grain production in the country had gone up.

He said the country was being surrounded by antagonistic forces. Pakistan had been given AWACS and $4.25 billion in aid. Without this massive financial help they would not be able to make their bombs, he said. Mr Gandhi said that Pakistan was making a bomb with "stolen technology and no one was stopping her from doing this." At the same time India was being pressured into signing a Non-Proliferation Treaty. He said that even if the most sophisticated weapons were supplied to Pakistan, India would not move away from its path of non-alignment.

He also said, amid cheers from the crowds, that India would give a fitting reply to Pakistan "Hum Kadake Ka Jawab Dange". Then he added that the "reply would make the father and mother of that country remember its maternal grandmother". (Jo Unke Ma-Baap Bane Huye Hain, Unko Nani Yad Karva Doonga).

He said the present threat had its roots in his promise to the people that he would fight the vested interests in the country. The vested interests had combined with some forces to throw a challenge to his leadership and were trying to erode the confidence of the people in his leadership, he added. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, Indira Gandhi died. Rajiv Gandhi announced that he too was prepared to sacrifice his life.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi was flanked by Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr Tajdar Babar, president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (I) [DPCC-I]. The rally was organized by the DPCC (I), but the master of ceremonies on the occasion was Mr Bhagat. As soon as Mr Rajiv Gandhi arrived, a few minutes after noon, Mr Bhagat spoke for five minutes.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Dobrynin

Reviews Cooperation With Tiwari

BK221027 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, R. Anatoliy Dobrynin, held discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, in New Delhi today. They reviewed bilateral cooperation in economic, scientific and cultural fields in the context of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission meeting to be held in Moscow next month. Mr Tiwari will be leading the Indian delegation at the meeting.

Feted by Tiwari 22 May

BK230346 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N. D Tiwari, has said Pakistan's pursuit of sophisticated weapons, including AWACS, poses a great threat to India's security. He regretted that some of India's neighbors do not subscribe to the view that bilateral problems could be solved through peaceful means. Mr Tiwari was speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Mr Anatoliy Dobrynin, in New Delhi last night.

Referring to Sri Lanka, the minister expressed India's grave concern over the involvement of outside forces in the ethnic conflict in the island. He noted that the Delhi Declaration signed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev for a nuclear weapons free and nonviolent world has been appreciated and approved the world over. He described the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation as a vital factor in ensuring peace and stability in Asia and the world.

Meets Foreign, Defense Ministers

BK221631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Mr Anatoliy Dobrynin, held discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi today. The 90-minute talks primarily centered on cooperation between the two countries. They reviewed the follow up of various programs agreed during the visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to New Delhi. The Soviet side told Mr Tiwari about the extensive groundwork and preparations being made in Moscow for the India-Soviet Joint Commission meeting to be held in the first week of next month. Mr Tiwari will be leading the India delegation to the meeting. The political and security environment around India also figured at the talks.

Mr Dobrynin also had an hour-long meeting with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant. The defense minister conveyed to the Soviet leader India's concern at the massive U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan and its impact in the region. He expressed satisfaction over the Soviet cooperation in the field of defense. Mr Dobrynin reiterated that the Soviet Union would continue to extend its cooperation to India in the field of defense supplies, production and technology.

Beijing Talks on Trade Protocol With China Begin

BK250926 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] India and China today began talks in Beijing to draw up a trade protocol for 1987-88. The Indian delegation is being led by the commerce secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, while the Chinese vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Lu Xuejian, is heading the host country's delegation.

Apart from efforts to correct the trade imbalance, India would like to sell more technical and industrial goods to China. The Chinese say they are keen to buy plywood, rayon, jewelry, iron ore, steel products, and tobacco from India. The earlier trade protocol signed in New Delhi last year envisaged a turnover of nearly $150 million.

Further Reportage on Violence in Meerut, Delhi

Delhi Updates Situation

BK250305 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Intensive patrolling is continuing in Meerut in view of the tense situation there. Two stabbing incidents have been reported in a curfew free area of the city. Our Lucknow correspondent says house-to-house search is being carried out by the Security Forces. A large quantity of illegal arms and ammunition has been recovered.

An official spokesman in Lucknow said that there is no law and order problem in Hapur. He categorically denied a report that the Army had been called out there.

Official sources in Meerut told our correspondent that essential commodities were being provided to the people in the curfew-bound areas in the city. Chemist shops were being opened to give medicines to the people.

In Delhi the 1-hour relaxation in curfew in the walled city areas passed off peacefully at 0600 this morning. Police sources said residents bought essential items during the relaxation. Patrolling by Security Forces, however, continues. Strict vigil is being maintained at all sensitive points, which were scenes of disturbance last Friday.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs met yesterday to consider the situation in Meerut and Delhi.

Parliamentary Group Detained

BK260423 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] In Meerut the situation remained incident free last night. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the city. The chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh; the minister of state for home, Mr Surinder Singh Chauhan; and the director general of police are camping in the city. Quoting official sources, our Lucknow correspondent says the situation is being reviewed to grant a few hours relaxation in curfew today. A house-to-house search is continuing, and a large number of illicit firearms and ammunition have been recovered from various localities. Adequate arrangements have been made for the supply of essential commodities and medicines. The death toll in the incidents so far has been officially put at 85.

Seven opposition members of parliament, who had gone to Meerut from New Delhi yesterday for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation, were detained at the nearby Malyana village for defying curfew regulations. The delegation consisted of Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mr P. Upendra, Mr Saifuddin Chaudhury, Mr N.A. Balram, Mr K.P. Unni Krishnan, Mr Chitta Basu, and Mr Rashid Masud. The Lok Dal-Ajit group leader, Mr Mohammad Yunus Salim, told newsmen in New Delhi last night after returning from Meerut that the local administration did not allow the delegation to visit Malyana. He said the chief minister had earlier agreed to allow them to visit the affected areas including Malyana where seven persons were reported to have died in the police firing. The additional district magistrate of Meerut has denied that the members of parliament were arrested. He, however, said they were at the Transport Nagar police station.

In Delhi, with substantial improvement of the situation in the walled city area, curfew was relaxed for 2 hours this morning. Police sources said no untoward incident was reported during the relaxation which ended at 0700. Our correspondent reports that as the relaxation began at 0500, residents came out of their homes to buy essential items. Police and paramilitary personnel are keeping a strict vigil. The Army continues to standby at a few major intersections in the walled city. Prohibitory orders banning processions and carrying of firearms in the entire union territory have been extended as a precautionary measure. The orders,

which were initially issued for 5 days, will now be in force till Monday.

Sikh Students' Strike Call Unheeded in Punjab
BK250854 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, the 2-day bundh [strike] call given by a faction of the All India Sikh Students Federation failed to evoke any response on the 1st day today. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that all commercial establishments, banks, and government offices are functioning normally. Rail and road traffic is operating as usual. All the examinations are being held as per schedule.

The state government has made elaborate security arrangments in view of the bundh call. The call has been given to protest against the alleged repression by the government and in support of the demand for the release of Jodhpur detenus.

16 Afghan Planes Reportedly Bomb Border Area

BK251634 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Reports from Islamabad say several people were killed and dozens wounded when Afghan aircraft bombed Pakistan's border areas. About 16 Afghan fighter planes intruded into Pakistan's airspace yesterday and bombed Teri Mangal, (Shalo Khan), and (?various) areas of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province.

Meanwhile, a time bomb of high intensity exploded in Parachinar in the frontier province, resulting in the damage of many buildings. According to reports, the powerful bomb of Soviet origin was planted by unknown terrorists.

Two Bomb Explosions in Rawalpindi; 11 Injured

BK221710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Two bomb explosions took place at (Pirwadhai) bus stand at 1730 this afternoon in Rawalpindi. Police sources told Radio Pakistan's representative a short while ago that 11 people were slightly injured in the explosions. The explosions also [words indistinct] damaged two shops. Further investigations are continuing.

Delhi Notes Further Violence in Karachi 22 May

BK230400 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] There has been more violence in Karachi. Police fired at rioters in Malir District yesterday. There is no immediate report of any casualty. The firing followed noon prayers and the mob looted and set ablaze a bank and several shops owned by Punjabis and Pashto-speaking Pathans.

President Leaves for Unscheduled Pilgrimage

BK231314 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad today for Jeddah to perform Umrah [unscheduled pilgrimage]. He was seen off at the airport among others by the Senate chairman, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The Senate chairman will be the acting president during the absence abroad of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Returns From Saudi Visit

BK251722 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Rawalpindi this afternoon after performing an unscheduled pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan received him at the airport. Others present at the airport to receive the president included senior civil and military officials.

Yaqub Khan Sees 'Favorable' U.S. Response to AWACS

BK230905 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that the response of the Reagan administration to Pakistan's request for the early supply of an effective air surveillance system is very favorable. He told *Associated Press of Pakistan* at the conclusion of his week-long high-level talks in Washington that the American Administration shared our serious concern over the mounting air attacks originating from Afghanistan and recognized the need for Pakistan's air defense system. He said our technical team is now evaluating options which could give us an effective capability at an early date.

He said during his meetings there was a general appreciation among administration officials and congressional leaders of the strengthening of democratic institutions in Pakistan. The foreign minister has now left Washington for New York on his way back home.

ICO Secretary General on Indian Anti-Muslim Riots

BK220211 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada has expressed concern over the recurrence of anti-Muslim riots in Meerut, Ahmedabad, and other Indian cities. Speaking to PTI in Karachi today he expressed the hope that the Indian central and state governments will take appropriate and effective steps to protect the life, property, and rights of Muslims and other minorities in the country.

ICO secretary general made a stopover in Karachi on his way to Jeddah after his visit to Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. He met the prime ministers and the Muslim leaders of these countries and exchanged views with them on international issues and matters pertaining to Islamic community.

When asked to comment on the recent provocative statement of the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he said we should think about our future generation and should work for peace and harmony and security in the region.

Answering a question, he said the situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated and the only solution is by the early withdrawal of the Soviet forces and restoration of Islamic, nonaligned, and independent status of Afghanistan.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa Scores India's 'Open Support' of Terrorists

BK250803 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0652 GMT 25 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 25 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Sri Lankan Prime Minister R Premadasa addressing a peoples rally in Bibile on Saturday (May 23) said that what India could at least do now is to help Sri Lanka put down terrorism in the same way India had declared to tackle terrorism in that country.

"India" he said "has a duty to preserve its friendship with Sri Lanka. It has angered the people of Sri Lanka by her open support to terrorists to cause destruction in the country by allowing them to possess arms and camps on Indian territory".

The prime minister also said that the proposed Pradesheeya Sabhas for which elections would be held shortly would give the Sinhala, Tamils and Muslims 'Eelam' (all) powers to tackle problems of the areas as suited to the areas but not Eelam (a separate state). These Sabhas would help the Tamil speaking people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces like in other provinces powers to [words indistinct] rule under the Grama Rajya system but not Eelam.

The prime minister was speaking at a mammoth rally held in Bibile after he had declared open the 492d re-awakened village "Sathdamgama".

"Sathdamgama" consisting of 40 houses was once a thick jungle which has been cleared preserving the essential trees to form the village. The forty houses were constructed with self help under the million houses programme. It has a network of roads, a playground, a community centre and water supply scheme.

Earlier the prime minister declared open three more projects in the Bibile electorate. They are the new rural electrification scheme at Obbegoda, the Dambagalla rural health centre and the regional health centre at the Dambagalla Hospital

Speaking further the prime minister said that India which is saddled with the terrorist problem in Punjab has laid down a condition that it would not hold talks until terrorism ceases. India has now vouched to use an iron hand to put down terrorism. But India tells Sri Lanka that terrorism could be stopped only through a political solution.

He said that the wave of terrorism here was heightened after 1982 when at the presidential election the people voted in the president for a second term after taking the country towards progress by implementing unprecedented development projects. With the strategic position of Sri Lanka and its oil tanks in Trincomalee some outside forces became jealous. They thought that the only way of destroying the present government with its record of development work and service to the people could only be through the bullet not the ballot. So they got hold of some of Sri Lanka's terrorists in the North, gave them arms and ammunition and gave them facilities to be trained.

Three years ago when he told this fact of bases in Tamil Nadu some thought that he was just boasting. But India insisted that there were no camps but refugees. But the so-called refugees possessed arms and ammunition and were apprehended by Tamil Nadu police. Despite denials the Indian authorities summoned these terrorist leaders to Delhi from Tamil Nadu for discussions. "Where is the justice and fairplay some talk about" asked the prime minister.

And now the Tamil Nadu Government has openly given financial assistance to the two terrorist groups the LTTE and EROS to continue with their terrorism. After doing all these India tells Sri Lanka to negotiate.

"I ask whether it is unreasonable for us to say that a political solution could not be worked out when there is violence. I don't see any political solution emerging until we destroy terrorism and restore peace" said the prime minister.

Mr Premadasa said what they should do now was to strictly enforce law and order in the north in the face of open violation of the law. This aspect could only be handled by the police and the Security Forces who know the situation. "We are not competent people to handle enforcement of the law in the field. We should leave the Security Forces to do their duty while we carry on with the task of development and serving the people" the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that if they held peace talks while the violence continued it would set a bad and a dangerous precedent. If they succeed through violence then democracy would perish when every group would resort to violence to achieve their aims without resorting to negotiations and democratic process. It will give the bad precedent that violence could solve problems.

Mr Premadasa said that in Punjab Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi held talks with the moderate leader Barnala and arrived at a so called political solution. But the terrorists said that Barnala was a puppet and said that they would settle for nothing short of a separate state. Nor did the terrorists lay down arms. But now with terrorism continuing Mr Gandhi has taken over direct rule in the Punjab State vowing to destroy terrorism with an iron hand. "Why" asked the prime minister "could not the Indian Prime Minister give the same adivce to Sri Lanka?"

He said that the Indian Government has summoned the TULF leader Mr Amirthalingam for talks. What guarantee is there that the same fate which befell Barnala would befall Mr Amirthalingam if he is to take control of affairs of the political part in Jaffna.

"I categorically say that we must first have peace before any political solution could be worked out" the prime minister said.

Looking from the side of Prabhakaran, the LTTE leader, will his rank and file lay down arms even if Prabhakaran agrees to a political solution with so many Tamil youths sacrificing their lives for the cause of Eelam. Will they allow Prabhakaran to live

if he did so? Terrorists, whether the northern terrorists in Sri Lanka or the Punjab terrorists will not lay down arms. The only language they understand is the bullet. They don't respect humanity. They thirst for blood.

The prime minister said that as far as he could see they could face the situation only on two fronts. Firstly they should give the police and the Security Forces the powers to discharge their duties in manitaining law and order in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Secondly India as a neighboring country should stop giving all assistance to terrorists to attack Sri Lanka. Because of terrorism it is the innocent people of all communities Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim who get killed.

The prime minister said that they would hold the Pradesheeya Sabha elections shortly and the Tamil speaking people in the north and east could elect their representatives for the Grama Rajya.

Foreign Minister Summons Indian Commissioner

BK221428 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1349 GMT 22 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 22 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Sri Lanka has told India that it is deeply disturbed by reports in the Indian press to the effect that the chief minister of Tamil Nadu has released large sums of monies to various terrorist groups.

A press release issued by the Foreign Ministry in Colombo this evening states that Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C. Shahul Hameed summoned the first secretary of the Indian High Commission, H.S. Puri, since the high commissioner is away in India, and told him that the government is deeply disturbed by reports in the Indian press to the effect that the chief minister of Tamil Nadu has released large sums of monies to various terrorist groups.

Hameed said that these reported actions cut across completely what India is attempting to do just now in Delhi and in the present context India has three responsibilities. Firstly as a neighboring country, secondly as a country extending its good offices for the resolution of the present ethnic crisis, and thirdly as a leading non-aligned country. These reported actions challenge the very foundations of these three responsibilities.

Sri Lanka appreciates the fact that India has a federal form of government but the centre cannot claim ignorance or lack of control over the actions of constituent states. If that were so, a good part of the international community would be in turmoil today.

Sri Lanka has not heard any denial of these reports. Surely India must clear the air. India owes an explanation to the international community in general and to Sri Lanka in particular. Tamil Nadu stands further condemned of blatant violation of all established norms of good neighbourly conduct.

Security Minister Assails Tamil Nadu Aid to Rebels

BK251124 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The sole aim of Tamil Nadu is to destroy this country. The funds that the (?separatist) terrorist organizations — the LTTE and the EROS — received from Tamil Nadu are for the massacre of those who value the unity and independence of Sri Lanka. Tamil Nadu is now overtly doing what it used to do under cover. If anyone had a doubt that the terrorists were receiving financial assistance from Tamil Nadu, this has now been dispelled. This was stated by minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, in Wadduwa yesterday.

Speaking further, the minister said that the present crisis is a problem faced by all of us. He called on certain groups to avoid making pessimistic remarks about the cruel actions of the terrorists. We should understand that the nation must be protected. This is more important than (?deaths). Continuing, the minister recalled that history has recorded the results of the occasions on which we were divided and the times when we were united. He pointed out that even the subversive groups in the south, Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, should participate in the attempt to eradicate terrorism if its members accepted the unity and sovereignty of the country.

10 Killed in Air Force Bombing in Batticaloa

BK261642 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Sri Lankan Air Force planes have bombed militant hideouts at Manmunai in the eastern Batticaloa District. Reports from the area said 10 bodies were recovered, but an official communique in Colombo claimed only two militants were killed in the raid (Palai) and Iyakachchi in northern Jaffna were also bombed. Reports also speak of shelling from a number of Army camps in the peninsula.

Majlis Speaker's Prayer Sermon on Gulf Situation
LD221315 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] In his prayer sermons, the Majlis speaker described some of the attributes and exalted traits of the lord of the faithful, His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, and referred to the glorious marches on Jerusalem Day. He said: Undoubtedly, this multimillion strong presence of the Muslim people of Iran is the best news for those who yearn for the liberation of Palestine. We hope that by maintaining this militant spirit, we will be able to fulfill God's promise, which is the victory of truth over falsehood.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then described the philosophy behind the creation of the regime occupying Jerusalem by imperialist agents and said: This germ of corruption today has great importance for world blasphemy and plays the role of a dagger in the hand of the United States aimed at the heart of Islam and Islamic forces.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly then referred to the aggressive policies of the regime occupying Jerusalem and added: One of the main goals of that regime is to add Islamic lands from the Nile to the Euphrates to the occupied Palestinian lands. Were it not for the Islamic revolution of Iran and for the struggles of the Lebanese Muslims, that regime would have occupied Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Unfortunately, today with the wealth of Arab countries, U.S. weapons, and the support of some European and communist countries, this evil tree is being protected. Even more regrettable is the fact that some leaders of the region's countries have tied their existence to that of Israel.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council then pointed out the mistake by the countries that are engaged in the battle against Israel and who have combined the war against Israel with Arab nationalism and said: Were it not for this mistake, 1 billion Muslims all over the world would have been able to uproot this cancerous cell from the region. If the Muslims were supporters of the war, it would have been certain to end with the victory of the Muslims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: If the leaders of Islamic countries are sincere, they should not boycott Jerusalem Day. They should encourage it, so that Muslim people can come to the arena and chant the slogans of "Death to the United States and death to Israel." Those who boycott Jerusalem Day are certainly committing the greatest treason against Palestinian aspirations.

Continuing his speech, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the war imposed by the Iraqi regime upon Iran and the war-mongering moves by that regime in the region, and said: As the main policy of world arrogance is to deprive Iran from selling oil, world arrogance showed its presence with its agents in the Persian Gulf and began provocations. The Islamic Republic of Iran confronted those provocations with the self-sacrifice of its believing forces, whether at the fronts or behind the fronts, and engaged in retaliation in order to defend its rights.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: We have repeatedly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches more importance to the security of the Persian Gulf than anyone else. Therefore, if the war-mongering Iraqi regime attacks our ships, we will also target the ships of its supporters with divine fire. Although we have thus far not accepted responsibility for hitting any ships, and they do not have the capability to prove it; nevertheless, if they hit a platform, a [Iraqi] platform will be hit.

The Majlis speaker added: Our final word is that if they bring the situation to such a point that Iran cannot use the Persian Gulf for exporting its oil, on that day no country will be able to benefit from the Persian Gulf. We have proved that we are capable of doing so, and the world has also become aware of our strength.

Referring to the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and the threat to this vital waterway by the United States and the agents of world arrogance, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: As our fighting forces are each day getting closer to their predetermined targets in the north of Iraq, and as northern Iraqi cities fall to Muslim Iraqi fighters and forces of Islam, and as Baghdad and other Iraqi cities come into the firing range of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States decided to be present in the Persian Gulf and to detract from our pressure in northern Iraq. For the same reason, they also trapped the Russians in the Persian Gulf.

The Majlis speaker added: For a 90,000-tonne vessel to be escorted by Soviet fleet is a victory for Iran; because the cost of transporting oil in this way would be much more that the cost of airlifting it.

Referring to the incident of a Soviet frigate [as heard] hitting a mine, as well as the bombing of frigate *USS Stark* in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: We do not regard these moves as accidental. As our nation fights with God's support, therefore, their defeat is a victory for us.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the hoisting of U.S. flags on Kuwaiti ships and said: Flags do not solve anything. One day we could land on their ships and carry their flags here — and we shall do this.

Describing the manner in which the Iraqi missiles hit the U.S. frigate, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: There are two possibilities for these events: One is that the war in the Persian Gulf has been turned into a war between the superpowers, because there is a possibility that the Soviet Union ordered the Iraqi pilots to bomb U.S. fleet. The second is that through our own special tracking, we discovered that they intended to hit our ships at nights in a special spot, and our officials received advance warning of this conspiracy. They carried out a move which is, at the moment, a military secret. This move resulted in the missile, which was meant to hit our ship, hitting the U.S. frigate. If this analysis is correct this would

provide answers to some of the questions the U.S. Congress is asking.

The answer to the question why the frigate did not react is that it was not intended for the U.S. frigate to be a target. Why did you see the Iraqis coming and show no reaction? The answer is that the Iraqis did not mean to hit the U.S. ship. Why did the [Saudi] Arabian F-16's not come to assistance? It was due because they were informed of the conspiracy. The intention was to carry out a joint conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran, but the divine hand of God turned it against themselves. Now the Pentagon says there was a mistake. What else can they say if they do not say this?

At the end of the Friday prayer sermon, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: We possess certain documents about this conspiracy. If an independent court is set up and if impartial judges come together, we will present to them our proof and documents about that conspiracy. We will not reveal them to Reagan, because Reagan has broken his promises. If in his recent speech, the U.S. President says that vicious Iranian fundamentalists are happy about the death of U.S. Marines and the destruction of the U.S. frigate, we tell him we are happy; if you are uncomfortable let it be so. We are not vicious. It is you who have come here from that side of the ocean to engage in mischief.

More on Majlis Speaker's Sermon

LD221725 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Majlis speaker and a substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Friday castigated the Pentagon for trying to heighten tension in the Persian Gulf and entangle also the Soviets in a situation equally detrimental to both.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the hitting of the U.S. frigate was the culmination of a joint 'conspiracy against the Islamic Republic by the Americans, the Iraqis and the Saudis' and stressed that once and if an international tribunal 'of non-aligned judges' should be formed to investigate the issue, the Islamic Government would gladly adduce its evidence in support of its claim.

The substitute leader of Tehran congregational prayers who was addressing a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran university campus here at mid-day said whatever conclusion the Pentagon and Kremlin might have drawn from the incident, more than anything it showed the world people that the war-ships and frigates of the superpowers as well as the rest of their military hardware can hardly do anything to protect 'the interests of the superpowers' when and where they are supposed to do so.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani scoffed at the U.S. scheme of flying third country vessels under U.S. flags as a means of protection against war-time incidents, saying the U.S. flags Washington intends to fly over Kuwaiti ships, as a protection against war-time incidents, have since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, been continually trampled upon — in official ceremonies — by Iran's Muslim militants.

He said that the Star-Spangled Banners which have been so wretchedly treated in this part of the world, since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, are no amulets to keep the evil eye away from the vessels of other countries.

'We should get to their vessels,' said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'get hold of their flags, bring them over here onto our own land, and prove to the Americans that insofar as flags are concerned they are no good in action.'

The Majlis speaker said in his sermons here that even though the superpowers should eventually manage to escort oil tankers with their frigates every time a tanker enters at and leaves the Persian Gulf, the very act itself would signify a miserable situation for the two superpowers since beside everything else there is an enormous difference in the average speed of an oil tanker and that of a frigate and that their cruising abreast would seem like a heavy-slow moving truck escorting a race-car.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said sarcastically that the Americans and the Soviets would be wiser to carry Persian Gulf oil aboad cargo planes rather than choose to do it in such risky and costly manner.

He said if the superpowers should really opt to go into the trouble of escorting oil tankers with their frigates, then as a result the oil price would soar to as much as that of gold.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said by their engagement in adventuresome operations at the Persian Gulf, Washington and Moscow seek to challenge Islam rather than assure themselves of the safe passages of oil tankers and cargo ships. He said despite their inherently opposite ideologies the two superpowers act conspiracies against Islam, since the religion offers a plausible alternative to capitalism and communism both of which have proved a failure in their own birth places.

He said Washington and Moscow have ventured on a risky strategy at the Persian Gulf principally because their other devices for kneeling the Islamic Revolution over the past seven years proved a total failure.

The Majlis speaker likened the U.S. frigates to heavy lumbering 'bears which would be easier to chase and hit than rats' thereby implying that the same fate would await any U.S. frigate at the Persian Gulf in the future.

Addressing himself to Ronald Reagan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani questioned why America should allow itself to have vital interests in the Persian Gulf more than Iran may have such interests at the Atlantic and east of New York. He reminded that it is not Iran which is challenging the United States at the U.S. territorial waters but that it is the U.S. which has ventured to meddle in the business of the Persian Gulf states at the Persian Gulf waters.

Elsewhere in his sermons Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized Arab governments for overlooking Islam as a common ideology capable of holding Arabs together against the Zionists and the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was referring on the International Jerusalem Day (the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan,

this year on 22nd May) castigated Arab leaders for not heeding Iran's call to condemn the Jerusalem occupying regime in demonstrations throughout the Muslim world.

The Jerusalem Day, one for condemning the Zionist occupation of Palestine and formation of the Zionist entity, was proposed by Iran's Ayatollah Montazeri shortly [after] the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and welcomed by fervent Muslims throughout the world.

On Friday May 22nd millions of Iranians throughout the country staged rallies condemning the formation of the state of Israel and vowed to fight for the liberation of Palestine.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani deplored the turning by Arab leaders to nationalistic sentiments, rather than religious ties, as a lever against the Zionist regime, and commented that as long as Islam is not recognized and sought as the only power capable of uniting Muslims against the Zionist regime, the struggle for the liberation of Palestine will prove a failure.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Claims U.S. 'Afraid of Iran'

LD251713 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on Monday that the U.S. would have landed troops on Iranian coasts if it had been courageous enough to do so.

The U.S., which has sent its naval fleets to the Persian Gulf to protect Kuwaiti ships flying the U.S. flags, would have occupied Iranian territory if it had not been afraid of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Speaking to a group of personnel of the Iranian Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) [as received] here, the speaker said that when a warship may be destroyed by a helicopter and some volunteer forces who dare martyrdom, then the power and efficiency of foreign fleets should be questioned.

Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) advised the Havaniruz personnel to be prepared to play a key role once the situation in the Persian Gulf worsens.

Since Iran has no confidence in an end to Iraqi mischievous acts in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian Havaniruz should involve itself in handling any possible incident in the region, the speaker concluded.

Musavi Threatens Retaliation If Unable To Export Oil

LD221326 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi warned on Thursday that if Iran is unable to export its oil from the Persian Gulf it would not allow other regional countries to export oil from the Strait of Hormuz.

Premier Musavi made the remark in a speech to a group of people at a mosque in south Tehran where he reiterated preservation of the security of the Persian Gulf and stressed that Iran will maintain its "tit-for-tat" policy.

On the International Qods Day on May 22, the last Friday of the auspicious month of Ramadan, Musavi said that eradication of the regime occupying Qods (Jerusalem) which he described as a "cancerous tumor" will serve to return grandeur, power and honor to world Muslims.

The prime minister reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran with a 50-million population has stood against all global powers and is protecting Islamic ideals at the global level. Despite propaganda, economic and political plots of the global arrogance against Iran, the message of the Islamic revolution, upheld with the blood of the martyrs, has been conveyed to world nations, Musavi concluded.

Foreign Minister's Message to UN on Gulf Shipping

LD231238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 87

[Message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar; date not given]

[Text] Your excellency, the responsibility for freedom of navigation and the protection of security in the Persian Gulf have drawn the attention of international circles, including the United Nations, for the past few years. In addition to the annual reports, your comprehensive report to the Security Council on 26 November 1986, raised the issue as an important dimension of the Iran-Iraq war which requires separate study. Regrettably, your report failed to induce the Security Council into taking a pragmatic stand. As a result, the threat against free navigation in the Persian Gulf continued. The developments over the past 6 months have, unfortunately, moved toward further escalation of the situation.

On the one hand, the invitation extended by a littoral state to the two superpowers to engage in direct interference, and on the other hand, the presence of foreign warships and the continuation of the policy by the Iraqi regime to exacerbate tension have paved the way for the emergence of a crisis.

The events of the past few days, and in particular the Iraqi attack on *USS Stark*, indicate that, considering its great importance as an artery for the shipment of oil and goods to other parts of the world, the Persian Gulf has now been transformed into a stage where dangerous political and military plays are taking place.

Regrettably, but not surprisingly, the main perpetrators of these tensions are the Iraqi regime and certain permanent members of the Security Council. The attack by the Iraqi Mirage on the U.S. warship was part of an earlier design, aimed at creating a crisis and, as a result, to pave the way for direct interference by the superpowers.

Certain information which one hears shows that the Iraqi pilot identified the U.S. frigate and that the plane was tracked by AWACS. There is no doubt that, following the repeated threats by U.S. officials after their visits to the states of the region, the

fact that a U.S. ship was made a target for which blame could be put on the Islamic Republic of Iran could have created the best pretext to apply pressure on Iran.

The fact is that the Iraqi regime has for some time quite openly pleaded with the two superpowers to engage in extensive interference in the war. Consequently, this could have presented an exceptional opportunity to achieve this purpose. However, an immediate report on the use of Exocets, which was made available to the Iraqi Government by the French Government, and the fact that almost all the ships attacked by the Iraqi regime are hit by these missiles, prevented the Iraqi regime from taking advantage of the situation.

Nevertheless, the situation is still critical and dangerous. We believe that the main responsibility for the crisis in the Persian Gulf should be shouldered by those permanent members of the Security Council who, considering their objectives and political interests, have prevented the Security Council from taking a neutral stance and from offering a logical and legal solution since the inception of tension in the Persian Gulf.

It is an irrefutable fact that attacks on merchant vessels, like all other unlawful acts, were begun by the Iraqi regime. The Security Council, rather than preventing this dangerous play by Iraq, in two successive resolutions, including Resolution No 552, in a totally illogical and unlawful manner, advocated the separation of secure and insecure regions, while accepting responsibility for a request made in connection with the security of shipping only in a certain sector of the Persian Gulf.

This stance did not appear unexpected at the time; for while certain permanent members of the Security Council were engaged in supplying the most sophisticated weapons to the Iraqi regime, it was obvious that the exacerbation of tension was linked with political motives of a few permanent members who are interested in interfering in the Persian Gulf. However, recent incidents, particularly the attack on the U.S. frigate, may oblige these members of the Security Council to review their policies and objectives.

Mr Secretary General, you will recall that the Islamic Republic of Iran supported and responded positively to your eight-point proposal which, aside from other aspects, included a complete halting of attacks on merchant vessels in the entire Persian Gulf, as well as your direct and independent requests in this regard, including your request of 12 June 1986.

You will also know that Iraq, resorting to various pretexts, has been prevaricating in responding to all these proposals. The main difficulty, however, is that your principled measures, even after the report of 26 November 1986, failed to have the unanimous support of the Security Council.

Having stated that, it is now appropriate for the esteemed secretary general to renew his initiatives to restore security in the Persian Gulf and prevent the exacerbation of tension and crisis. Such initiatives, providing they involve the departure of the superpowers from the Persian Gulf and commitment not to attack merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf, can be effective. Furthermore, the permanent stand of the secretary general and the Security Council on other countries refraining from any action which could escalate the gravity of the situation must be stressed.

Needless to say, the best way to ascertain this is to make the necessary arrangements aimed at preventing the continued supply of sophisticated weapons to Iraq, whose deployment is mainly directed against merchant vessels.

Once again I stress that the security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of its littoral states; that the security of free shipping must be maintained throughout the Persian Gulf, for either security applies to everyone or it applies to no one.

Kharrazi Urges Superpowers To Leave Gulf

LD231336 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters [WIH] Kamal Kharrazi asked the superpowers to leave the Persian Gulf region as soon as possible.

Speaking at a press conference attended by domestic and foreign reporters, Kharrazi warned, "interference of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf under the present circumstances is a stupid action. It will put them to shame if an Iranian gunboat sinks their fleets."

The WIH head stressed, "therefore it would be advisable for them to respectfully withdraw from the Persian Gulf, leaving its security to the littoral states."

He reminded that it is customary for the Islamic Republic of Iran to issue warnings prior to embarking on any action, so that instead of a serious confrontation, the problem would be solved in a better way.

"We are ready to confront any foreign power in the Persian Gulf and could easily endanger the interests of the superpowers in the region," Kharrazi said. He stressed that Iran did not like to see the situation become more complicated but rather wanted security to be returned to the region.

"Therefore", he said "those who really want security to be returned to the Persian Gulf should stop Iraqi from attacking ships. In this case all countries would be immune from these attacks."

Kharazzi referring to the present tense atmosphere in the region said that those who called themselves pragmatists did not listen to the words of Iran which, from the very beginning, insisted on the punishment of the aggressor. "If in the early days of the war the aggressor had been punished, the war would have been over by now," the WIH head added.

If the superpowers were really pragmatists they should know very well that to commit a stupid action was not necessary for being a superpower. "In our view their (the superpowers) intervention in the Persian Gulf under the present circumstances was an obvious folly."

The superpowers' claims to restore security for the Persian Gulf and seek an end to the Iraqi-imposed war, said Kharrazi, were sheer lies. In fact the superpowers were trying to fish in troubled water, he added.

To safeguard security in the Persian Gulf was an easy task which could be maintained only by deterring the Iraqi regime from attacking ships.

Referring to the recent Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. Navy frigate 'Stark', the WIH head said that what happened to the U.S. vessel was a secret military affair which the Americans are not willing to reveal.

But, he stressed, the Americans should question their administration as to why the U.S. should pay the cost of Iraqi mischiefs in the Persian Gulf. He expressed hope that the U.S. would come to its senses and make a wise decision — to withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

Reiterating that the Iraqi war against Iran was in a sensitive stage and that any measures in connection to the war needed sound calculations, Kharrazi said even a minor intervention by those who have involved themselves in the war could certainly create a catastrophe.

He said that at present the Iraqi regime was confronted with a popular uprising in the northern part and in the southern and central cities it was faced with an intensifying armed movement. In a vain bid to suppress the popular movements in northern Iraq, the Baghdad regime had brutally deployed chemical weapons and had injured a large number of Iraqi people, said Kharrazi. Some of the injured had been visited by the U.N. representative who compiled a list of their names, he added.

Moreover, he continued, the Iraqi regime by expanding its attacks against cargo ships in the Persian Gulf, was trying to pave the way for the Persian Gulf to the superpowers.

Kharrazi noted the grave responsibility world mass media was shouldering in conveying the sound news and information to the world public on the popular movement of Iraqi people in the northern part of that country, including the liberation of several cities (by the Kurds) and deployment of chemical substances by the Iraqi regime in response.

He stressed that world public opinion should be acquainted with the events and realities happening in Iraq and know that recently some 4,000 Iraqi Kurds were forced to flee to Iran by the Ba'thist regime.

Further referring to the recent dramatic incident in the Persian Gulf in which the U.S. Frigate 'Stark' was hit by an Iraqi missile, Kharrazi said that Iran employed a special tactic in which the U.S. frigate was hit instead of an Iranian ship.

On recent statements of the Saudi head of state King Fahd that the Iraqi-imposed war was nearing its end, the WIH head said he had no special opinion to offer on Fahd's remarks. He deplored the fact that some of the neighbouring regional states had paved the way for the superpowers to enter the Persian Gulf and stressed that Iran repeats its words to them to return to Islam, grasp the friendly hands of Iran and expel the superpowers from the region.

On the role of the organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in the establishment of peace, Kharrazi said that the OIC had played the least role in seeking an end to the Iraq-imposed war and that it was more conservative than other international bodies.

He stressed that so far many international organizations had condemned the Iraqi regime for its deployment of chemical weapons but the ICC had shockingly failed to do so.

Gulf States Warned About 'Fanning' Flames of War

LD251254 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — The Persian Gulf states had better avoid fanning the flames of the Iraqi-imposed war or foment tension in the region and instead consider their own interests, warned a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Monday.

The WIH spokesman expressed surprise over the recent warning of the Kuwaiti Amir on the spread of the Iraqi-imposed war, questioning the credibility of Kuwati Amir's statement when Kuwait itself had invited the superpowers to interfere in the region.

Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah in a statement broadcast by Kuwaiti radio on Friday had claimed that sparks of the war were thrown around by those who had directly ignited the fire, eventually led to the superpowers' involvement.

The spokesman, saying that Kuwait is responsible for heightening tension in the Persian Gulf, noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it favors stability and peace in the region and has frequently asked Kuwait not to support Iraqi attacks on ships.

But, the spokesman said, Kuwaiti leaders in utter disregard to their own interests and also those of the region have put the airspace of their country at the disposal of Iraqi warplanes enabling the Ba'thist regime to continue attacking ships and tankers more easily.

The Islamic Republic, as it has shown in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, is able to foil any cause of tension, the spokesman said. But, he added, the regional countries had better shoulder the task of maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, a task which the Islamic Republic is quite able to do.

FRG Politician Visits To Discuss Beirut Hostages

LD241503 Hamburg DPA in German 1429 GMT 24 May 87

[Excerpt] Tehran/Bonn (DPA) — Strict silence has been maintained this weekend about the mediating efforts of the SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician Hans-Juergen Wischnewski in the abduction of Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt. DPA's information is that Wischnewski flew to the

Iranian capital Tehran, last Wednesday under strictest secrecy to learn the conditions under which the pro-Iranian Beirut organization 'Hizballah' would be prepared to release company representatives Cordes and Schmidt, who were abducted in Lebanon in January. DPA has learned that Wischnewski is due to return to the Federal Republic today. [passage omitted]

May Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD241739 Hamburg DPA in German 1635 GMT 24 May 87

[Excerpt] Tehran/Bonn (DPA) — The Federal Government confirmed on Sunday that the SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician Hans-Juergen Wischnewski is in the Iranian capital, Tehran, for mediating talks concerning the kidnapping cases of Cordes and Schmidt. DPA learned from a reliable Iranian source that the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stated his willingness on Sunday to receive Wischnewski. Earlier Wischnewski had meetings with other Iranian politicians.

Government spokesman Friedhelm Ost refused to comment on details of Wischnewski's mediating efforts. [passage omitted]

Message To Be Sent to Lebanon

NC250642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Mr Wishnewski, FRG MP and former minister of state for foreign affairs [as heard], met yesterday evening with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis], together with the FRG chancellor's political adviser and the FRG ambassador to Iran. During this meeting Mr Wishnewski conveyed messages to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the FRG chancellor, the speaker of the parliament, and the FRG foreign minister.

IRNA reports that Mr Wishnewski expressed hopes for the expansion of Iranian-FRG relations in various fields, saying: We will take any step you want to expand our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also pointed out that in the FRG Government's view, Iraq is the fomenter of the war. He strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons, the bombing of cities, and the harassment of civilians by the Iraqi regime, adding: We fully agree with you on nonalignment and strongly support the idea that the Persian Gulf should not be the scene of a conflict between the East and West.

Expressing his government's deep regrets over a program aired by an FRG television network that was insulting to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Wishnewski said: Although we have shows satirizing politicians in our country, we nevertheless strongly condemn any such show on a religious leader who is esteemed throughout the world, and especially in the world of Islam. He added that the head of the said television network had personally apologized for this.

Mr Wishnewski also spoke about the situation of Muslims in the FRG, stating: We in the FRG must learn how to open doors to the peoples of other faiths. We hold your religion in special esteem, and on this basis, I am requesting that we hold seminars on various religious issues.

In conclusion, Mr Wishnewski spoke about the German hostages in Lebanon, declaring: We know that you oppose terrorism and that your country is not involved in this in any way; nevertheless, because of your idealistic influence in Lebanon, we ask for your help in solving this problem.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed his thanks for the clear stands expressed by the FRG Government, and said: Your Foreign Minister Mr Genscher was the first high-ranking official in the West who described Iraq as the fomenter of the war, and we respect his courage in speaking the truth.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed his thanks for the messages from the FRG chancellor, the parliament speaker, and other FRG officials. He went on to compare the situation of the Muslims in Germany with that of the religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Explaining that deputies of religious minorities in the Majlis enjoy the same rights as the other deputies, he said: I do not think that the Western countries are prepared to treat the Muslims in their countries in the same way.

The Majlis speaker also referred to the activities of counterrevolution and of the Islamic Republic's enemies in the FRG, saying: The freedom of action given to those people who have clearly confessed that they are terrorists does not conform with your stated beliefs on fighting terrorism. Of course, you might say that there is freedom in your country. This is what France said too. However, it ousted counterrevolution from France when it wanted to do so. Counterrevolution in your country enjoys so much freedom of movement that photos are taken of MPs and counterrevolutionaries together in your parliament, and lies against the revolution are allowed to be disseminated. As long as this continues, our nation cannot believe that you are serious in your struggle against terrorism.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We are not very willing to act as mediators in any hostage negotiations because self-seeking news agencies always exploit us. Nevertheless, because of our respect for the FRG Foreign Minister Mr Genscher and for the spaker of your parliament, we will convey, for the last time, your message to them [hostage-takers].

Goes With Tabataba'i to Beirut

LD250932 Hamburg DPA in German 0903 GMT 25 May 87

[Excerpt] Tehran/Beirut/Bonn (DPA) — According to DPA sources, SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician, Hans-Juergen Wischnewski today flew from Tehran to Beirut, the Lebanese capital, as part of his Near East mediation mission in the Cordes and Schmidt kidnap cases.

As was learned from Iranian sources, Wischnewski is accompanied by Sadeq Tabataba'i, confidant of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian revolutionary leader. [passage omitted]

Meets With Hizballah Leader

LD251518 Hamburg DPA in German 1430 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Beirut/Tehran/Bonn (DPA) — SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician Hans-Juergen Wischnewski has apparently met in Tehran with one of the leaders of the pro-Iranian 'Hizballah,' 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadi. DPA has learned this from reliable sources. Hamadi is the brother of Muhammad and 'Abbas Hamadi, who are in prison in the FRG. The Syrian secret service, according to the sources, has told the fundamentalist terrorist organization "Islamic Jihad" that release of Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes is only possible via Damascus. All attempts by the Bonn Embassy in Beirut to contact the kidnappers have failed over the last 8 weeks because, according to the source, Hamadi has apparently been in Tehran for 2 months.

According to reliable sources, 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadi spoke last week with authorities in Iran about preconditions for the exchange of his two brothers in prison in the FRG for Cordes and Schmidt. According to this information, the Hamadi brothers should only be accused in the FRG of possession of banned explosives. Further, the FRG must guarantee the kidnappers that Muhammad 'Ali Hamadi will not be deported to the United States. Such a guarantee must also include the undertaking that the brothers, if sentenced in the FRG, would only have to serve half their sentences.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Departs Japan, Arrives in Bejing

LD211935 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Beijing, May 21, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived here from Tokyo today and was received at the airport by officials of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. During his stay Sheykh ol-Eslam is scheduled to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart as well as several other ranking officials.

Views 'Stark' Incident, Arms Sales

LD230949 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Tehran, 23 May IRNA — Foreign Ministry deputy for political affairs, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, currently visiting the People's Republic of China said that he believed last week's Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate 'Stark' off the Bahraini coast to be pre-planned. This was because, he added, no ship had ever been attacked in that particular area.

Speaking at a press conference in Beijing Friday he added that the fact that anti-missile system of the U.S. ship did not operate in self-defence, despite reported warning of the attack was also questionable.

On the situation in the Persian Gulf, Sheykh ol-Eslam who arrived here from Tokyo Thursday said that ever since the imposition of its war, Iraq has been trying to involve other countries of the region. The greater the superpower presence in the Persian Gulf, the electrifying the tension and more dangerous its dimensions, he added.

At present the situation in the Persian Gulf is so sensitive that any slight mistake will have dangerous consequences for the entire region. Reiterating Iran's policy against superpowers presence in the region he remarked that presence of foreign powers, will intensify the tension.

Iraqi has struck many ships in the Persian Gulf, he noted. The very fact that despite Iraqi mischiefs the security of the area has been preserved was due to Iran's interest in preserving Persian Gulf security, stressed Sheykh ol-Eslam.

On U.S. intervention in the region, the Foreign Ministry official said that anytime they have intervened, they have been badly defeated. He cited the Tabas incident and Lebanon events as proof. "They should learn to exercise wisdom more than their might," he added.

It is better the U.S. pulls out of the Persian Gulf before it faces more problems, he advised. U.S. presence will lead to the possibility of clashes which will have unpredictable results, said the Iranian official.

On sales of Chinese arms to Iran and Iraq, Sheykh ol-Eslam said that Iran purcahses arms from many countries and it is not Iran's policy to reveal their names. "Other than Israel and South Africa, we buy arms almost from any country that we can," he told reporters. However, Sheykh ol-Eslam pointed out that Iran condemns any country which sold arms to Iraq.

In reply to a question whether the Iraqi-imposed war will have any vicgtor, he said that it has been repeatedly stated that Iran will be the victor in the war. Iran has not yet deployed its full military might against Iraq, he added.

Demonstrators March in Tehran, Issue Resolution

LD221201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 87

[Excerpts] Today, of our entire Islamic homeland felt the strong footsteps of millions of revolutionary and fasting people and the air over country was filled with the echoes of the piercing cries of "God is the greatest," "Death to the United States," and "Death to Israel." The Muslim people of Islamic Iran, in step with the Muslims of other countries, today revived the memory of similar glorious movements in support of Jerusalem Day, held in previous years. [passage omitted]

According to our correspondents' report, the revolutionary women in Tehran — many of them carrying their babies — were also conspicuously present at today's marches and once again demonstrated the unwavering determination of the Muslim revolutionary women to continue the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Side by side withe the other strata of people, they renewed their resolve to continue the war until the final victory against the aggressive regime of Saddam, the agent of Zionism and impeialism in the region.

Large groups of Christians, Jewish, and Zoroastrians took part in today's marches in order to show their support for the innocent, homeless Palestinians. According to our correspondents' report,

the huge waves of the Jerusalem Day marchers in Tehran, while unanimously chanting the slogans "O Muslims, rise, Jerusalem is awaiting your arrival," "O Palestine, Palestine, your leader is Ruhollah," "Israel, Israel, your enemy is Hezbollah," and "War, war, until victory," arrived at Tehran University to attend the last Friday prayers in the holy month of Ramadan. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, after they arrived at Tehran University and the surrounding streets, a resolution of the marchers was read out and was approved by the participants. In this resolution, the marchers — while stressing the importance of the fact that supremacy of juriscounsel principle is reviving the honor and glory of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem and while stressing the need for the war to be continued until the collapse of Saddam and the Ba'th Party, as the main problems — announced: It is purely up to the region's countries to maintain the security of the Persian Gulf. The creation of tension by global arrogance in the Middle East and superpowers' military presence in the Persian Gulf are unbearable.

Addressing reactionary Arab leaders, particularly the shaykhs of Kuwait, who for the sake of prolonging their rule for several more days surrendered to abjectness and feebleness and helplessly invited the enemies of mankind and the enemies of Islam to intervene in the region, the resolution said: Such humbleness will not have the slightest influence on determing the Muslim ummah and will strengthen our resolve to overthrow the Ba'th Party. The resolution also says: Only by eliminating Saddam's aggressive regime, will peace and stability return to the region.

In their resolution, the marchers — while expressing support for all the liberating movements in the world and the struggle of the Muslim nations against the reactionary and puppet rulers — have stressed the need to continue the struggle for the liberation of dear Jerusalem, this first Qiblah [place Muslims face while saying prayers; before Mecca, Jerusalem was the Qiblah] of the Muslims and the land of the prophets. The marchers condemned the reconciliatiory moves of some Palestinian leaders.

Further Reports on Iraqi-Kurdish Fighting

Kurds Capture Rawanduz

LD221742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] After several days of heavy fighting, the Iraqi town of Rawanduz today fell and was captured by Iraqi Muslim Kurds. We draw your attention to a correspondent's report on this town's fall:

After several days of heroic battle, the Muslim and revolutionary Kurdish forces in northern Iraq captured Rawanduz at noon today. According to a report dispatched from Ramadan Headquarters, the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' irregular warfare, Kurdish peshmerga blocked Rawanduz's communication roads after a series of heavy clashes with the Saddam forces. The Kurdish warriors, having killed the district officer, chief of police, and communication officials of the town, also succeeded in taking control of the district building, the police headquarters, and the communication installations. In doing this they killed, wounded, or took as prisoners the Ba'athist forces.

After Rawanduz's fall, the Ba'thist enemy, using all his military might and aircraft, has so far bombed the town seven times. As a result, a number of innocent children, women, and men have been martyred and their homes destroyed. Following Rawanduz's liberation, 100 Ba'thist troops have so far surrendered to the Kurdish revolutionaries. Also, considerable quantities of heavy and light weapons, including six tanks intact, have been captured by Kurdish guerrillas and used against the enemy. In the meantime, a widespread wave of opposition to the Saddam regime has engulfed all of Kordestan. The inhabitants of (?Harir), in Irbil Province, have gone on strike and closed their shops and government offices in protest against the Baghdad rulers.

The oppressed Iraqi people, surprised and extremely annoyed by international bodies' silence concerning so many crimes, expect Muslims and free peoples of the world to send international teams to the area to view crimes committed by the Iraqi regime.

PUK Ambush Kills 90 Iraqis

LD222129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Military forces of the Iraqi aggressive army, with an estimated strength of one tank battalion including 16 T-55 tanks and one battery company, departed Sarqal's toward Humartal and Tufan 'Arab on 17 May to destroy villages of the region. However, thanks to ambush operations by warriors of the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK) and the popular forces, 90 Saddamist troops were killed, while five of the Iraqi Zionist army's tanks and 12 bulldozers were set ablaze.

According to an IRNA report, the operations lasted 5 hours with the bodies of 34 mercenaries of the Zionist enemy being left on the battlefield. The names of the 11 dead identified to date are as follows: Lieutenant Jalil Dawud, armored unit; Lt Husayn Hashim; Private Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad; Conscript Private Hamid Kazim Mutlaq; and the mercenaries Muhammad Husayn Nadir, Hasan Husayn Qadir, Yunus 'Abdulkarim Mustafa 'Ali, Shahab Ahmad Hamid, Hayat Qadir, Ahmad Majid 'Abdulkarim, and Abu Bakr Hamid Sa'id.

On the basis of this report, weapons captured during the battle include four T-55 tanks, five loaders, three dushkas, three [name indistinct], one Racal wireless transmitter-receiver set, 30 Kalashnikov rifles, one Russian transmitter-receiver set, and one pair of infrared binoculars.

Kurds Attack Zakhu Bases

LD231218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] According to a report by the General Staff Command of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, combatants under the Ramadan Headquarters' command as well as

peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq during the past few days succeeded in launching attacks against bases of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Zakhu, killing a number of forces stationed there and capturing an Iraqi captain, (Amin Jasim 'Abbas) from Tikrit, along with five soldiers.

In the operations, the peshmerga captured one 60-mm mortar with its ammunition, a number of Goryunov machineguns, 15,000 rounds of ammunition, 142 RPG's, a telecommunications machine, and hundreds of items of light weaponry.

The same report states: Following a heightened popular movement in northern Iraq, Captain (Hamzah 'Ali), commander of the 3d Company of the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi III Corps' 108th Khusayr Brigade, and (Akram Mijan Aramis) of Mawsil, first secretary of the Iraqi Embassy in Zambia and former Iraqi representative to the United Nations, have surrendered along with 18 other persons to peshmerga of the Shaykhan-Aqrah region.

Quoting the Ramadan Headquarters, the report continues: The Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq, regrouping and redespatching its forces in the Harir and Batas regions of Irbil Province, attempted to put down the popular uprising in the city [as heard], but the people of the above-named regions put up obstacles and engaged the forces of the Zionist regime in Iraq, forcing them to retreat.

The report continues: During the past few days, Muslim Kurdish peshmerga launched an infiltration operation in Zakhu, northern Iraq, and managed to destroy a security building there. They set fire to an artillery headquarters of the Zionist enemy located east of the city along with three heavy guns following a surprise attack on another axis.

Iraq Bombs Villages

LD232031 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., May 23, IRNA — The Baghdad Government Saturday bombed two other Iraqi villages, Khourt-e Saghir, and Sarkaf [IRNA spelling] in Shaykhan Region, in a bid to quell the uprising of Iraqi people of northern Iraq.

Two women were wounded in Khourt-e Saghir and heavy damage inflicted on Sarkaf Village in the course of the bombing.

Peshmerga Capture Khurmal Bases

LD232037 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azerbayjan Prov., May 23, IRNA — Some eight military bases of the Iraqi regime around the town of Khurmal were captured by Iraq's Kurdish Peshmergas, according to reports by Iraqi Muslim militants.

The Peshmergas and Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have captured two Iraqi officers, seven non-commissioned officers and 12 local troops.

Iraqi Rebels' Guerrilla Operations

LD241118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] The central headquarters of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, quoting the Ramadan Headquarters, announced: Muslim Iraqi mojahedin affiliated with the Seyyed ol-Shohada forces and forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters succeeded in carrying out two guerrilla operations over the past 2 days on the Baghdad-Al-Mikdadiyah Road, some 60 km northeast of Baghdad. They attacked a military column of forces serving the regime ruling Iraq, annihilated some of their personnel, and destroyed a number of their vehicles.

The warriors of Islam also attacked two military vehicles transporting a number of commanders of the 17th Division of the 2d Iraqi Army Corps, and annihilated all their occupants. During these attacks, another division commander who was wounded died after being transported to Ba'qubeh Military Hospital in Iraq's Diyala Province.

Kurds Kill 90 Soldiers

LD241533 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 24, IRNA — Ninety Iraqi soldiers were killed during a 7-hour clash with Kurdish strugglers in Sar Qal'ah and Gubangharb [names as received] areas in northern Iraq on May 21.

Four Iraqi tanks were destroyed and three machine-guns, five bulldozers and hundreds of weapons were seized by the Kurdish fighters. Bodies of 34 Iraqi Government soldiers killed during the clash littered the region.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique Records Enemy Losses

LD221632 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the fronts Thursday in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants, said a military communique here Friday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2846 [number as received] said that Iranian gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 13 gun emplacements and one vehicle of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Zeyd and Bubiyan, southern fronts, where the enemy suffered several casualties and the destruction of a number of gun emplacements. Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Nahre-Anbar and Jofeyr, southern fronts, yesterday, damaged at least five Iraqi tanks, completely silencing enemy tank fire. Movement of enemy vehicles on the axes overlooking Nahr 'Anbar were also checked.

In the northwestern fronts Thursday, Iranian patrol convoys successfully carried out seven intelligence-gathering missions and seized several light and heavy weapons of Iraqi forces.

Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked by Iranian artillery fire in Tileh-Kuh, Sumar and areas opposite Mehran, western fronts, by Iranian Muslim combatants. Iranian forces prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments in Nahr 'Anbar yesterday. Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants hit and forced to flee an Iraqi patrol unit in Kuh-Gach, southern fronts, Thursday.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, the communique concluded.

Basra Centers Shelled

LD221732 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, May 22, IRNA — Muslim combatants' artillery fire pounded economic and industrial installations as well as Iraqi military centers around Basra Thursday in retaliation for Iraqi air raid on an industrial unit here. A group of Iraqi Ba'thists were killed or wounded in the shelling. According to the report Al-Haretheh power station and installations, Basra railway and petrochemical plant, command bases of Third and Sixth Corps of Basra training barracks were destroyed. The report said that military and economic installations as well as eastern region of Basra were engulfed in black smoke.

Communique Says Ships Searched

LD231806 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 14 oil tankers and two cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2845 [number as received] said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 20 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts yesterday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

In Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops and halted movement of enemy vehicle columns Friday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Talayeh where parts of Iraqi positions, several tanks and a number of enemy vehicles were destroyed. Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday, killing some enemy soldiers and destroying at least 10 gun emplacements and two vehicles of theirs. Movement of Iraqi logistical columns were checked in Naft-e Shah, western fronts, by Iranian artillery fire. Convoys of Iranian patrols successfully carried out intelligence-gathering missions throughout the fronts Friday and returned safely to bases, the communique concluded.

Navy Searches 11 Ships

LD241720 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage since they were not carrying any cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 2864th [number as received] communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in the western fronts Saturday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 16 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts along with three vehicles.

Exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically in the southern fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Majnun Islands, Kushk and Talayeh where some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed. Iranian gendarmerie forces opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Saturday, inflicting substantial casualties on enemy troops and destroying six gun emplacements of theirs.

In the northwestern fronts Saturday, Iranian Muslim combatants, holding the upper hand, continued shelling Iraqi positions and supply routes, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and three vehicles of theirs. Movements of Iraqi vehicles carrying personnel and 105 mm artillery pieces as well as relocation activities of enemy troops on the strategic axes overlooking Mehran, western fronts, yesterday were completely checked by Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up barbed wire fences in Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, Saturday inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy troops.

Battalion Departs for Fronts

NC250932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in the third phase of the dispatch of the Imam of the Ages Corps, a complete battalion consisting of combat, trained, reserve, and specialized forces left from Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh Province yesterday afternoon to fight against the aggressive Saddamists. These combatants, who were from the cities and districts of Yasuj, Dehdasht, Basht, Bahme'i, Lendeh, Cherum, Sisad, and other parts of the province, were zealously seen off in a special ceremony amid the chanting of the slogan "War, war until victory" by the residents and tribes of Do Gonbadan, before they left for the fronts of the war with the Zionist enemy.